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The National Guard and the War On Terror:

Operation Iraqi Freedom

By Michael D. Doubler

Front cover: With their regimental colors flying, citizen-soldiers of Iowa's 1st Battalion, 133rd Infantry, 1st BCT, 34th Infantry Division, leave for war in March 2006. (IA NG)

Back cover: AC-130 Hercules from Missouri's 139th Airlift Wing operates at a forward air base in Iraq. Air Guard theater airlift assets proved crucial in the Iraq War. (DVIC)

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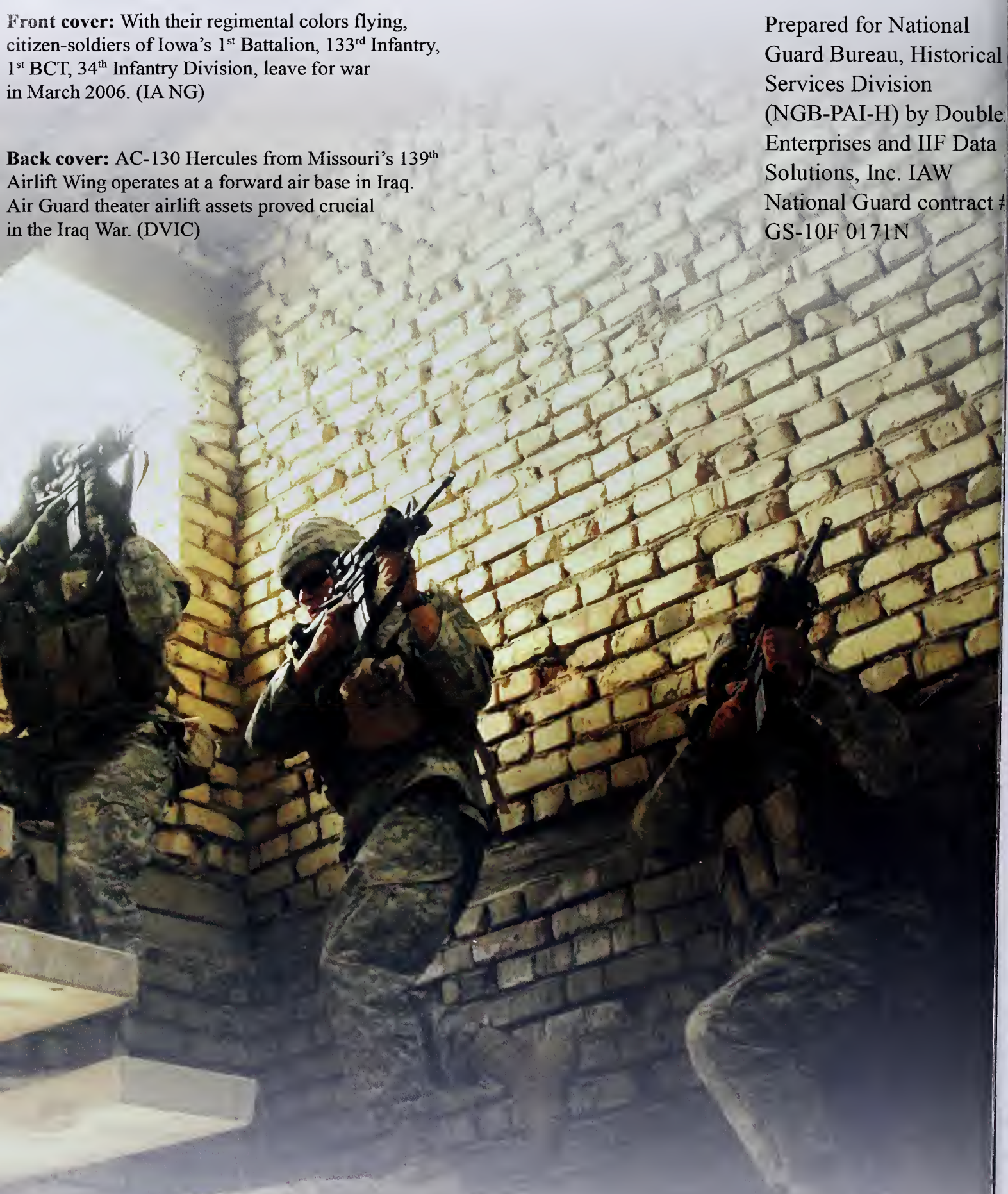

Citizen-soldiers of the 2nd Battalion, 130th Infantry from Illinois carefully move up the steps of an abandoned building they are checking for insurgents near Abu Ghraib, Iraq, on June 23, 2005. The battalion was assigned to Georgia's 48th BCT while serving in Iraq. (Spc. Jerry D. Crisp)

THE NATIONAL GUARD AND THE WAR ON TERROR:

OPERATION IRAQI FREEDOM

FLARE

by Michael D. Doubler

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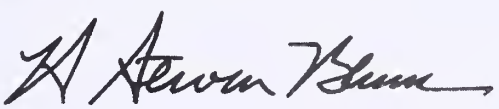
FOREWORD

Since 1636, the National Guard has fought to defeat our nation's enemies even as it has acted to preserve the lives and protect the property of the American people. As the events of the war on terror continue to unfold, the National Guard remains committed to the defeat of America's enemies abroad and to the defense of the homeland.

The National Guard and the War on Terror: Operation Iraqi Freedom is the third and final volume in a series that records the National Guard's participation to date in America's first war of the twenty-first century. The first installment recounted the heroic deeds and dedicated performance of Guard men and women in homeland security from the tragic events of September 11, 2001, through the historic response to Hurricane Katrina. The second volume told the story of the National Guard's involvement in Operation Enduring Freedom and the reforms the Guard has implemented to transform itself into a joint organization that is no longer a strategic reserve but an operational force. In recognition of the dramatic shift toward joint operations in modern warfare, *The National Guard and the War on Terror* is a joint series that covers both the Army and the Air National Guard.

Operation Iraqi Freedom provides a battle history of the National Guard's role in the early years of the Iraq War. From the initial invasion in March 2003 to the outbreak of brutal violence in the sectarian uprising of 2006, extended and repeated deployments resulted in the largest commitment of National Guard personnel to combat since World War II. Citizen-soldiers and airmen proved themselves fearless in battle while defeating enemy forces and providing security for bases and convoys. In addition, they successfully trained and operated alongside Iraqi military and police forces. Guard members were more than effective in helping to restore essential services, local economies and good governance while introducing peace and democracy to the Iraqi people. The contributions and sacrifices of National Guard men and women dramatically reminded the American people that the National Guard is an essential combat reserve and that the nation simply can not go to war without them. In addition to the battle narrative, the current work conveys the war's impact on National Guard families and friends who endured separation from loved ones and the sting of sudden and heartbreaking loss.

The National Guard and the War on Terror: Operation Iraqi Freedom is an interim, contemporary history by design, and once the Iraq War reaches its final conclusion, a more comprehensive account will be necessary. Meanwhile, the current volume is an informative and educational account of the National Guard's central role in the war on terror as demonstrated by the service of citizen-soldiers and airmen in the first years of the Iraq War. May their dedication and sacrifices inspire all of us in the National Guard to continue to stand watch over our nation, as we have for nearly 400 years.



H STEVEN BLUM
Lieutenant General, US Army
Chief, National Guard Bureau

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

The recording of the National Guard's central role in the first years of the Iraq War required the participation and cooperation of many institutions and individuals. The National Guard Bureau provided invaluable support throughout the project. NGB Public Affairs provided a safe haven during research and writing while offering sage advice, steady encouragement and many necessary documents. Ms. Renee Hylton, the chief of the Historical Services Division, proved exceptionally supportive and patient as I worked through the bewildering intricacies of the first two years of the war while dealing with a number of other personal issues. Above all, I would like to thank Lt. Gen. H Steven Blum, the Chief, National Guard Bureau, for having the vision to understand that a preliminary official history of Operation Iraqi Freedom was needed and for having confidence in me to complete it.

Beyond the National Guard Bureau, a number of institutions provided important support. The U.S. Army War College Library at Carlisle Barracks, Pennsylvania, offered many important background documents on the opening of the war and the campaign to capture Baghdad. The U.S. Army Center of Military History at Fort Leslie J. McNair in Washington, DC generously provided a number of materials on Guard units that their historians had collected in Iraq, especially a number of key personal interviews. The National Guard Association of the United States kindly presented me with an array of materials and photographs related to coverage of the war. A number of states and individual Guard units provided materials and information, and I thank them all, especially Arkansas, Florida, Indiana, New York, North Carolina, Oklahoma and Oregon.

A number of key individuals provided vital support during research, writing, and final production. My editor, Blanche Kapustin, gathered and organized significant parts of the research materials and thoroughly edited the manuscript prior to publication. Chief Warrant Officer John W. Listman, Jr. (Ret.), my assistant researcher, assembled and superbly organized a truly staggering amount of primary source materials that made my task of writing that much easier. John Doubler of Creative Endeavors provided for the attractive layout and design. Col. Jim Barrineau (Ret.) of IIF Data Solutions, Inc. of Centreville, Virginia, supervised the contracting vehicle throughout the project and ensured that all necessary resources were available.

My goal in writing this third volume in a trilogy regarding the National Guard in the war on terror was to produce an accurate battle narrative of the many accomplishments citizen-soldiers and airmen achieved in the first years of Operation Iraqi Freedom. Researching and writing this publication has given me a profound respect for all those state soldiers who have served and suffered in Iraq. They established a record of service for themselves that is second to none in the Guard's long history. Their country asked a great deal of them and their families, and they never faltered or failed in their determination to bring freedom to Iraq. Once the conflict has finally ended, a more complete and definitive history of the National Guard's roles there will emerge. In the meantime, if this work makes the American people more aware of the essential role the National Guard plays in national defense and instills in Guard members an even greater pride in what they have accomplished to date in the war on terror, then my purpose has been accomplished.

Michael D. Doubler

CHAPTER ONE

THE ROAD TO WAR, SEPTEMBER 2001-MARCH 2003

Lt. Col. Geoffrey Slack stood in the warmth of the midday sun at Camp Liberty, Iraq, on St. Patrick's Day 2005, studying a small formation of only fifty citizen-soldiers. The troops represented a remnant of the battalion he commanded, the New York National Guard's 1st Battalion, 69th Infantry, one of the most storied infantry units in the entire Army. Normally on this day, the "Fighting 69th" would be leading New York City's St. Patrick's Day Parade up Fifth Avenue, much to the delight of admiring revelers. But in 2005, the battalion was engaged in more important business. The 1-69th had gone to Iraq as part of the largest deployment of Army National Guard (ARNG) fighting forces since World War II. At the height of the ARNG's involvement, it represented approximately 40 percent of the coalition's combat power in Iraq. The New Yorkers had already endured nearly 150 days of combat against insurgents in and around Baghdad. Fifteen men had been killed and wounded so far, and instead of a rowdy celebration, the battalion had opted for a more subdued observance of St. Patrick's Day.

For Geoff Slack and the 1-69th Infantry, the deployment to Iraq had a very special, personal significance. On the morning of September 11, 2001, he had been at his home on Long Island when a staff member called from the battalion's armory in lower Manhattan to inform the commander that an airplane had struck the North Tower of the World Trade Center. He had turned on his television, and seconds later, saw the live picture of United Flight 175 impacting the South Tower. Knowing instantly that America was under attack, he quickly gathered his uniforms and personal items and headed for his unit's motor pool on Long Island to draw his commander's HMMWV. As he drove toward the city, Lieutenant Colonel Slack called his wife at work to ask her to call the company commanders and senior noncommissioned officers (NCO) on the battalion's alert roster with orders for them to report to the armory.[1]

Stopping at the Lexington Street armory to pick up his executive officer, the two drove eastward toward the World Trade Center site on a leader's reconnaissance. Police waved them forward until fire trucks completely blocked the street. Abandoning the Humvee, the two officers went on foot until they finally reached the very center of the devastation around 1:00 p.m. Slack stood in stunned disbelief before the collapsed Twin Towers at the site that became known as "Ground Zero." In his mind, the spectacle was "akin to what I imagine Hiroshima had to have looked like after the atomic bomb." Only the skeletal remains of the outer facades of the Twin Towers jutted into the air, and the remainder of the buildings had collapsed into a huge, jagged pile of debris several stories high that belched fire and smoke. Police officers and firefighters clawed madly through the debris field at different locations, searching for comrades and other survivors.

The mangled body parts of those slaughtered in the attack were scattered densely throughout Ground Zero. At one point, Slack stumbled over a curious object. He crouched down in the blanket of dust and ash, blinked several times to clear dust particles from his irritated eyes and finally identified the item. Reaching out with his left hand, he picked it up: a light blue high-heel shoe still containing a woman's foot that had been completely severed at the ankle. Slack's soldierly instincts prompted him to treat the remains with the utmost dignity and respect available at the time. Rising from his crouched position, Slack

opened the right cargo pocket of his camouflaged uniform pants and gently slid the shoe and foot inside. They rested there until later in the day when he deposited them at a collection point where other first responders were gathering human remains for storage and identification.[2]

A Vermont Air National Guard F-16 flies a combat air patrol above New York City on September 12, 2001. Below smoke still rises from Ground Zero, the former site of the World Trade Center. The attacks of 9/11 began the National Guard's involvement in all aspects of the war on terror. (NGB)

Over the next few hours the members of the Fighting 69th spontaneously reported to their armory in lower Manhattan, the closest military facility to the World Trade Center. Throughout the next five days, the citizen-soldiers helped maintain a security perimeter and provided support to rescue and recovery efforts, work that was both emotionally and physically exhausting. The Lexington Street armory had quickly become a public bereavement center for those who had lost loved ones. Its stone exterior walls and the interior walls of the first floor were plastered with thousands of handbills bearing pictures of the victims and heartbreaking messages asking for any information regarding their whereabouts. Tired and unaware of their armory's transformation, members of the 1-69th Infantry arrived from Ground Zero to face a phalanx of distressed citizens desperately asking for any information about survivors. Return trips to the armory for rest provided the Guardsmen little respite from the horrors of Ground Zero.

On Monday morning, September 17, 2001, the battalion's members had assembled on the drill floor of the Lexington Street armory. The tired, frazzled infantrymen were about to go home to rest and decompress. Their city had been savagely attacked, and they were still angry over what had taken place. Before he dismissed the troops, Geoff Slack wanted to thank them for their selfless service and remind them that even greater challenges might lie ahead. He began a short address by reminding his troops that "a week ago, the whole damn thing changed." Prior to September 11, Americans had viewed terrorism as barbarous acts perpetrated in far off places, but never in their own land. The terrorists had deluded themselves through some "twisted psychology" into thinking that what they had done was a noble act. The attacks, the battalion commander believed, had been nothing more than "senseless, pitiful murder."[3]

Geoff Slack saved his most severe exhortations for the terrorists themselves. "Those people do not deserve an honorable title of soldier. They are simply murderers," he observed. "Terrorist—murderer; they are synonymous words." The direct reply to the terrorist attacks would not come from domestic law enforcement but from the U.S. military he believed, and Slack hoped that the 1-69th Infantry would be part of that response. Speaking as a trained infantryman, the battalion commander ended with a stark admission. His visceral response to the terrorist attacks was a "burning f-----g desire to kill something." Just give the 1-69th Infantry a chance, he concluded, and "that somebody is going to get a belly full."[4]

Geoff Slack did not know it at the time, but his words had a prophetic ring. The 1-69th Infantry soon provided two companies to enhance security at the U.S. Military Academy at West Point, New York, part of a national effort to shore up homeland security after the 9/11 attacks. Other parts of the battalion reinforced the police at key sites throughout New York City. With the start of the war in Iraq in March 2003, the Army was stretched thin in order to fulfill missions in

Afghanistan, the Balkans and elsewhere. The New Yorkers were soon told to prepare for a peacekeeping deployment to Kosovo. That all changed on February 27, 2004, when New York's adjutant general informed Slack that his battalion was not going to Kosovo but to Iraq.

The Fighting 69th's first combat deployment in sixty years began on May 16, 2004, when it mustered at Camp Smith, a state training site on the banks of the Hudson River several miles north of New York City. From there, the battalion moved to Fort Hood, Texas, where a big surprise awaited. For its combat tour in Iraq, the New Yorkers were assigned to Louisiana's 256th Brigade Combat Team. Yankees from Manhattan and the Bronx at first made for odd companions with the bayou Southerners. Their forebears had fought themselves to a bloody pulp on battlefields of the American Civil War. However, knowing they were headed to combat in Iraq allowed camaraderie to overcome their social and regional differences.

In October 2004, the 1-69th arrived in Kuwait and soon convoyed north to central Iraq. Like all coalition forces, the overall mission was to bring peace and security to Iraq in the hope of fostering a new democratic government. The battalion's first tactical mission was to patrol the Taji region, twenty-five miles north of Baghdad, which had become a haven for insurgents. Peppered by explosive devices and mortar fire, citizen-soldiers had responded by turning up the heat and capturing more than one hundred enemy fighters. Lieutenant Colonel Slack patrolled the street for hours alongside his troops, appearing fearless in the face of the enemy, a quality that endeared him to all. The New Yorkers adapted quickly in combat. They learned to drive at breakneck speed—"Mach Jesus" they called it—to avoid dreaded roadside bombs.

The most hazardous duty came in February 2005, when the battalion moved to Baghdad and was assigned the mission to patrol "Route Irish," the coalition's designation for the main divided highway connecting the international airport with downtown. The media dubbed Route Irish the "most dangerous road in the world" where insurgents shot at and exploded bombs against coalition forces and civilians alike. Using massed troop formations and overwhelming force, Colonel

An up-armored HMMWV from New York's 1-69th Infantry that has been damaged by a roadside bomb along Route Irish in Baghdad is towed away for repairs. The "Fighting 69th" had the difficult assignment of providing security along the dangerous highway during early 2005. (1-69th Infantry)

Slack managed to quell much of the violence along the route. A low point in the entire tour occurred on March 4, 2005, when a 1-69th checkpoint opened fire on a car of Italian officials. One was killed and another, journalist Giuliana Sgrena, who had been held hostage by insurgents and just released, was wounded. The shooting resulted in an international incident and a series of intrusive investigations that wore heavily on Colonel Slack and the other officers but would eventually find them free of any misconduct.

On St. Patrick's Day 2005, Lieutenant Colonel Slack realized that the fifty citizen-soldiers present at the battalion formation represented those who were not on patrol, recovering from a recent mission, or preparing for their next assignment. In honor of St. Patrick's Day, the chaplain had offered to say a special Mass for the battalion immediately afterwards at the Camp Liberty chapel. On that very day, the bodies of two 1-69th members in flag-draped coffins would be offloaded from a military cargo aircraft at Dover Air Force Base, Delaware. In Geoff Slack's mind, the best way to pay tribute to those men, and all the others who had been killed and wounded so far, was not to celebrate St. Patrick's Day in the usual way but to get back to work and complete the mission for which they had been sent to Iraq. The battalion commander announced that those who desired should feel free to attend Mass, but as for himself, he would saddle up and go out with the next patrol onto the deadly, dangerous streets of Baghdad. Instead of celebrating St. Patrick's Day New York City style, the Fighting 69th would face another day of snipers, mortars and roadside bombs on Route Irish.[5]

A STRATEGY OF PREEMPTIVE WAR

For the West Point Class of 2002, graduation day held much greater significance than it had for previous military academy classes. On the morning of June 1, 2002, the graduating class sat expectantly in full dress uniform on benches on the playing field at Michie Stadium waiting for their commencement exercise to begin. West Point was celebrating its bicentennial, and the cadets of the Class of 2002 were the living personification of all that the U.S. Military Academy and its graduates had contributed to the nation's defense since 1802.

No one could have faulted the cadets that morning for dwelling on the changes that had occurred since the attacks of September 11 and the uncertain future that lay ahead of them. The feeling across the country was that the horrific events of that day had changed everything, and all of the available evidence seemed to support that notion. In the ensuing nine months, the nation had dedicated itself to recovery and rebuilding efforts in New York City and Washington, DC. Military and civilian first responders had deployed nationwide to shore up the country's defenses against further attacks. On October 7, 2001, a military response to the terrorist attacks came with Operation Enduring Freedom (OEF), a broad coalition attack under American leadership against Afghanistan in order to destroy the extremist Taliban regime and the al Qaeda training camps it sheltered. The Army's largest conventional forces battle in Afghanistan until that time, Operation Anaconda, had just occurred in March 2002.

The National Guard had taken a critical and very visible role in providing homeland security and supporting operations in Afghanistan. In the immediate aftermath of the September 11 attacks, the Air National Guard (ANG) remained primarily responsible for the nation's air defense and had greatly expanded its capabilities for preventing further air attacks. ANG fighters maintained periodic combat air patrols over major metropolitan areas and during special public events. After 9/11, ARNG members had dispersed throughout the country to increase security at the nation's airports, major bridges, dams, nuclear plants, military installations and other critical infrastructure. Simultaneously, citizen-soldiers and airmen had participated directly in OEF. ARNG and ANG Special Forces

(SF) units had been in the fight from the beginning, operating alongside full-time SF personnel to kill or capture the enemy, gather intelligence and discover hidden weapons caches. On March 4, 2002, Tech. Sgt. Keary Miller, a pararescueman assigned to the Kentucky ANG, had participated in a savage firefight atop Takur Ghar, a towering mountain peak in eastern Afghanistan, as part of Operation Anaconda. Sergeant Miller became the National Guard's first Silver Star recipient since Vietnam. Guardsmen had not partaken in combat extensively since the Korean War, but the war on terror was quickly proving once again that citizen-soldiers could fight.

President George W. Bush presents a diploma to a cadet during graduation ceremonies at the U.S. Military Academy at West Point, New York, in 2002. Moments earlier the president had announced a new national strategy of preemption for the war on terror. (White House)

With military precision, the Class of 2002's graduation exercise began promptly at 9:00 a.m. Thirteen minutes later, President George W. Bush stepped to the podium to deliver the commencement address. President Bush reached into history to compare the academy's newest graduates with the Class of 1942, commissioned into the Army and the Army Air Corps only months after another infamous surprise attack, the Japanese strike on Pearl Harbor. Those graduates, the president observed, had been "commissioned by history, to take part in a great new calling for their country."[6]

As they listened, the graduating cadets heard the president announce an unprecedented, new policy that would forever change their lives. The strategies of deterrence and containment that had worked so well for the duration of the Cold War "mean nothing" against a new threat of "shadowy terrorist networks" the president declared. In the war on terror, America would take the fight to the enemy, disrupt the terrorists' plans and confront the worst threats before they became evident. In the new strategic environment, the president believed that to guarantee the nation's safety required a "path of action." He then articulated a new strategy of "preemptive action" with a military that must be ready to strike "at a moment's notice." Speaking directly to the graduating class, President Bush declared: "We will send diplomats where they are needed, and we will send you, our soldiers, where you're needed."

What the cadets may not have realized at the time was that President Bush's declaration of a strategy of preemptive war would soon send many of them on a campaign into the very heart of Saddam Hussein's Iraq. Once there, the Army's newest generation of Regular Army officers would fight alongside National Guard citizen-soldiers to an extent not seen since their grandfathers, Regulars and Guardsmen alike, had fought shoulder to shoulder to defeat Nazi Germany and Imperial Japan.

PREPARATIONS FOR WAR

Professional military staffs called the plan for invading Iraq OPLAN 1003V; the rest of the world would come to know it simply as Operation Iraqi Freedom (OIF). Even as the president spoke at West Point in June 2002, detailed military planning for such an operation was already underway. That process formally began on November 27, 2001, when Secretary of Defense Donald H. Rumsfeld first tasked General Tommy Franks, the commander of U.S. Central Command (CENTCOM), to develop a "commander's concept" for eventual presentation to the commander in chief for a coalition offensive against Saddam Hussein's rogue regime. Working

from CENTCOM headquarters in Tampa, Florida, General Franks' staff labored diligently on the commander's concept which was to form the basis for a detailed attack plan. From the very beginning, wide agreement existed as to OPLAN 1003V's two ultimate aims: to remove Saddam Hussein's Baath regime from power and to eliminate the Iraqi military's ability to threaten its neighbors with either conventional forces or weapons of mass destruction (WMD).[7]

Though wide consensus existed as to the campaign's strategic objectives, there was little agreement on anything else. In its original form, OPLAN 1003V called for a campaign akin to Operation Desert Storm in 1991 in which coalition forces would conduct a methodical buildup of land, sea and air assets in the Persian Gulf region and then launch a large, coordinated attack aimed at capturing Baghdad and ousting Saddam. General Franks considered the design "too big, too slow, and out-of-date" and moved quickly to adopt a more creative and innovative plan that exploited American joint capabilities and new high technology. Secretary Rumsfeld pressed for even greater change. An ardent advocate of defense transformation, the Defense Department chief wanted a plan and subsequent campaign that looked more like the early months of the campaign in Afghanistan. Enduring Freedom had integrated SF, high technology communications, precision guided munitions and support from indigenous friendly fighters to topple the Taliban regime quickly with minimal coalition casualties. But military planners were quick to counter that Iraq was not Afghanistan and that a much larger conventional ground force would be needed in the Tigris-Euphrates basin, but Rumsfeld's views eventually carried the day.[8]

On September 7, 2002, Secretary Rumsfeld and General Franks briefed President Bush and other key advisors at Camp David, Maryland, on a detailed campaign plan. In simplest terms, OIF was to include five concentric attacks from as many different directions, all converging on Baghdad. The main effort was a coalition ground attack proceeding north from Kuwait toward Baghdad. A supporting ground attack was to advance southward from Turkey to capture Tikrit, Saddam's home city and the base of power for the ruling Baath Party. The entire ground force was to be kept to a maximum of only four division equivalents; speed and massed firepower were to compensate for any lack of troops and heavy weapons. SF forces were to launch their own two-pronged attack. They would first dash into the western Iraqi desert to eliminate Scud missile launchers that posed a considerable threat to massed coalition forces in Kuwait and allied countries throughout the region. Second, SF operators would fight alongside friendly Kurds to tie down enemy troops in northern Iraq. Coalition air strikes and cruise missile attacks against military and

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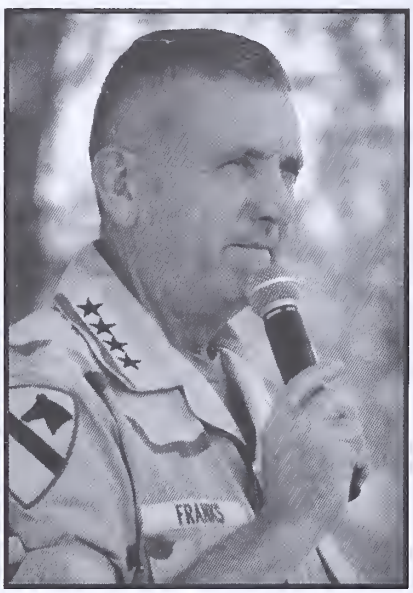


General Tommy Franks, CENTCOM commander, led the military planning for the opening phase of Operation Iraqi Freedom and oversaw the initial campaign to capture Baghdad and overthrow Saddam Hussein's regime. (DVIC)

civilian critical infrastructure and deployed enemy forces constituted a key component of the overall attack plan. Lastly, information operations would seek to confuse Iraqi command and control through deception and disruption while at the same time providing coalition commanders with valuable intelligence. In all, General Franks estimated that within 125 days of the launch of the ground offensive, Saddam would be deposed and Iraqi WMD securely in coalition hands.[9]

While the military refined its plans, American diplomacy attempted to develop a domestic and international consensus for removing Saddam. In his State of the Union address on January 29, 2002, President Bush identified North Korea, Iran and Iraq as an "axis of evil" that posed a "grave and growing danger" to the world by seeking WMD capabilities. The president put the world on notice that the United States would not permit "the world's most dangerous regimes" to threaten peace with "the world's most destructive weapons." The West Point graduation address five months later demonstrated that America was willing to move aggressively to preempt perceived threats. The day following the anniversary of the September 11 attacks, the president addressed the United Nations (U.N.) General Assembly, challenging them to stand fast against Iraqi provocations. President Bush enumerated a long list of Saddam's transgressions: defiance of U.N. resolutions dating back to the Persian Gulf War, abuse of U.N. weapons inspectors, gross violations of human rights, continuation of various WMD programs, plotting the assassination of regional leaders, and harboring al Qaeda terrorists known to have fled Afghanistan. The president assured the U.N. delegates that the United States would "stand up for our security" and encouraged the entire U.N. to make that stand as well.[10]

War clouds gathered ever so more throughout the autumn of 2002 and into early 2003. In October, Congress voted to give the president authority to use force against Iraq if it continued to defy the international community. The following month, the U.N. finally adopted Resolution 1441 which recognized the growing threats from Saddam's deceptions and intransigence and labeled Iraq's WMD and long-range missile programs as serious threats to international peace and security. If Saddam's defiance continued, along with a refusal to cooperate with U.N. weapons inspectors, the U.N. warned of "serious consequences." The most dramatic and convincing case against Iraq came on February 5, 2003, when Secretary of State Colin Powell delivered a presentation on the Iraqi threat to the U.N. Security Council, outlining the existence of WMD programs and possible links between Saddam's regime and al Qaeda. Anyone watching Powell's deliberate and thorough presentation could have correctly concluded that the United States was prepared to remove Saddam Hussein from power and to do so sooner rather than later.[11]

THE MILITARY BUILDUP

For members of the Illinois ARNG's 233rd Military Police (MP) Company, "the call" finally came on February 3, 2003. Stationed in the state capital at Springfield, the MP company prided itself on the professionalism it had displayed during previous deployments. The greatest testimony to the unit's reputation was its strength; in October 2002, the 233rd's assigned strength stood at a robust 243 against its authorized strength of 180. Mobilization orders were already going out to ARNG and ANG units nationwide. The 233rd fully expected to be part of the war effort against Iraq, but no one knew for sure. In the absence of facts, rumors flew wild. Some said they would head to the Balkans for peacekeeping; others believed they would deploy to Germany to backfill Regular MPs headed to the Persian Gulf. Just as many others felt sure they were bound for Iraq. The 233rd had returned home after six months of duty during Operation Desert Storm, and most assumed a similar deployment for the coming conflict.[12]

"The call" actually came on the cell phone of Capt. Jeff Royer, the 233rd's commander. When he answered the cell phone, his battalion commander, brigade commander, and a senior staff officer from state headquarters were all on the line. The company commander's orders were short and to the point. He was to assemble the 233rd on February 7 and report to Fort McCoy, Wisconsin, for additional training not later than February 10. The unit's wartime mission had not yet been determined. After the short conversation concluded, Captain Royer—an officer with the Springfield Police Department in his civilian job—moved to get the word out to his subordinates. Besides the question of when they might actually deploy, the MPs continued to speculate on how long they would be gone. When the official written mobilization order finally arrived, it stipulated that the 233rd was mobilized "for an initial period of up to 365 days," and the president had authority to extend that time for another year, if necessary.

Members of the 2-123rd Field Artillery conduct a first aid class as part of their mobilization training at Camp Atterbury, Indiana. Though they have yet to be issued their desert uniforms, they are wearing the body armor and camelback water carriers that troops used in Iraq. (2-123rd Field Artillery)

The reason the 233rd MP Company and hundreds of other ARNG and ANG units across the country received "the call" in late 2002 and early 2003 was because the Army and the Air Force had deliberately organized themselves that way. After the Vietnam War, the Defense Department's response to the end of the draft was the Total Force Policy, a new initiative aimed at reorganizing all of the active duty and reserve component resources in each service into a homogeneous whole. The Total Force Policy drew active and reserve forces into closer harmony and improved the overall level of National Guard equipping and training. While the ARNG and the ANG consisted primarily of combat forces, the Army and the Air Force over time placed more and more of their combat support and combat service support structure into the Guard. Because of the essential role support troops play in any protracted campaign, it soon became a truism that the armed forces "could not go to war" without a significant reserve component mobilization.

The war in Iraq would not be the first time that National Guard men and women served in the Middle East. In fact, the Guard had already established a long record of service in the region.

The war in Iraq would not be the first time that National Guard men and women served in the Middle East. In fact, the Guard had already established a long record of service in the region. To compensate for the lack of permanent U.S. forces based there, CENTCOM began a routine series of major training exercises in the Middle East, including Bright Star, a biennial, joint exercise between the United States and Egypt. National Guard personnel first journeyed to the Middle East as part of Bright Star in 1980. Over the next ten years, small numbers of ANG flying and support units as well as selected ARNG individual soldiers participated in Bright Star. The 1991 Persian Gulf War prompted a much larger deployment of Guard assets. By the time Operation Desert Storm ended in February 1991, the National Guard had made a considerable contribution to the victory, mobilizing a total of

nearly 75,000 personnel. Of these, nearly 45,000 served in the war zone. Pentagon planners who held that active duty forces could not go to war without the Guard and Reserve were proven correct. The large and rapid buildup of forces in the theater perhaps would not have occurred as quickly without National Guard transportation, logistics and airlift units that controlled and facilitated the flow of troops and equipment. In short, Operation Desert Storm became a textbook example of the integration of active and reserve forces in action.

The Persian Gulf War resulted in the long-term stationing of U.S. forces in the Middle East, including the National Guard. In the war's immediate aftermath, ANG units participated in Operation Provide Comfort that airlifted supplies and equipment to Kurdish refugees in northern Iraq. Starting in early 1997, the allies deployed military forces to Turkey and Saudi Arabia in order to enforce U.N. mandated no-fly zones over Iraq aimed at limiting aggressive air activities. A task force of American, British and Turkish air units flew from Incirlik, Turkey, to enforce a northern no-fly zone over Iraq above the 36th Parallel. ANG pilots and support personnel routinely cycled through Incirlik on 90-day rotations, gaining valuable experience in combat operations. Between Operation Northern Watch's inception in 1997 and September 2001, several ANG fighter wings served multiple tours of duty at Incirlik.[13]

Operation Southern Watch proved even more expansive and dangerous than corresponding operations in the north. Allied airpower enforced a southern no-fly zone below the 33rd Parallel starting in August 1992. The Iraqis frequently challenged coalition aircraft, and both sides engaged in long-range missile duels. The ANG provided sustained support to Southern Watch with fighters, tankers, airlifters and ground support units. The ARNG also participated in Southern Watch. After the Persian Gulf War, the U.S. military established a presence in Kuwait and Qatar intended to deter further threats from Iraq. Prepositioned sets of weapons and equipment in Kuwait allowed American ground forces to train there on a routine basis and gave them the added ability to return to the region quickly and mount defensive operations in the face of unexpected provocations from Iraq. In 1998, ARNG attack and utility helicopter units deployed to Kuwait for training. The following year, nearly 500 infantrymen from the Arkansas and Oregon ARNG traveled to Kuwait and Saudi Arabia where they performed force protection missions at U.S. installations. Citizen-soldiers maintained their presence in the Persian Gulf region until the terrible events of September 11, 2001.[14]

With the onset of the war in Afghanistan, the mission of National Guard forces in the region suddenly changed from security and training to combat operations against the Taliban and al Qaeda. From the campaign's very start, the National Guard provided a full spectrum of combat and support capabilities in the air and on the ground. After the fall of the Taliban and the initial routing of al Qaeda fighters, the wider commitment of U.S. and coalition forces throughout the country allowed the broader use of citizen-soldiers and airmen. Guard members continued to participate in combat, from close air support missions in the sky to SF raids and quick reaction force (QRF) missions on the ground. Both the ARNG and the ANG helped with security and rebuilding efforts with a wide assortment of support personnel that included medics, security forces, engineers, and transportation and logistics units.

An ANG KC-135 refuels an Air Guard fighter en route to the Persian Gulf region as part of the buildup for Operation Iraqi Freedom. (DVIC)

National Guard assets mobilizing for OIF in late 2002 and early 2003 represented a considerable array of combat and support capabilities. The ARNG called up a total of 31,848 citizen-soldiers organized into 170 units. The mobilization was truly a national effort, with forty-five states, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico providing troops. Alabama led the way by providing 2,440 citizen-soldiers, more than any other state. Delaware provided the smallest contingent; an engineer company of 103. By far, the greatest concentration of troops was found in MP, engineer, ordnance and quartermaster units that rounded out the extensive combat support mobilization roster. Aviation, military intelligence, air defense artillery and field artillery units were also ordered to active duty to augment CENTCOM combat power. The call-up included seven infantry battalions that would perform diverse and important security missions. With time short, there were few delays as ARNG units convoyed to various federal mobilization stations throughout the country. The typical unit spent only thirty-three days at a mobilization site before being validated for overseas deployment.[15]

The Air Guard faced the twin challenges of supporting deployment operations while preparing other citizen-airmen for the conflict's start. As it had done for the buildups during the Persian Gulf War and OEF, the ANG assisted the Air Force in forming air bridges to transit personnel, materiel and aircraft to the theater of war. Thirteen of the ANG's twenty-five airlift units provided strategic airlift as part of the air bridge while other C-130 squadrons prepared for intra-theater airlift operations after the invasion commenced. Air refuelers were essential in supporting the campaign. Thirty-five ANG tanker aircraft sustained air bridge operations while twice that number deployed to the region to refuel direct attack aircraft. Five Air Guard A-10 Thunderbolt wings deployed and were organized into air expeditionary wings (AEW) in anticipation of close air support missions. Similarly, four wings of F-16 Fighting Falcons were assigned to two other AEWs. In addition to flying units, the Air Guard mobilized over 3,500 ground support personnel to perform an array of skills from air traffic controllers, intelligence analysts and engineers to combat controllers.[16]

One of the ARNG's most unique missions of the Iraq War included the force protection of maritime sealift. The deadly terrorist attack on the USS *Cole* in Yemen in October 2000 and the events of 9/11 had increased concerns over the possibility of terrorist attacks against U.S. shipping headed for the Persian Gulf, especially in certain confined shipping lanes, such as the Strait of Gibraltar, the Suez Canal and the Strait of Hormuz. As a result, providing security to its 110 ships plying the sea-lanes between the continental United States (CONUS) and the Persian Gulf became a priority for the Military Sealift Command. Marines usually performed such duties, but with its huge commitments in Afghanistan and Iraq, the Marine Corps was already stretched to the limit.

A citizen-soldier from Puerto Rico's 296th Infantry test fires a machine gun mounted aboard a merchant vessel being protected by the unit during Operation Guardian Mariner. (U.S. Navy)

The Military Sealift Command turned to the Army Guard for force protection starting in March 2003. The Puerto Rico ARNG mobilized 1,200 citizen-soldiers of the 92nd Infantry Brigade for shipboard security. Because of their unique mission, the Puerto Ricans were dubbed "Guardian Mariners." Organized into teams of twelve, they all participated in a two-week training course that taught weapons handling, the tactics of shipboard security and the techniques of

of defending a ship and assisting its crew during a WMD attack. The Guardian Mariners' primary mission was to fend off terrorist attacks from swift boats using ship mounted M-2 .50-caliber and M-240 machine guns. At sea, Guardian Mariners remained alert while maintaining their weapons against rust that formed rapidly in the damp, salty air. Most quickly gained their "sea legs" during voyages that lasted from four to six weeks; others used medication to alleviate the effects of extended seasickness. "It's like an adventure, something new and exciting," said Staff Sgt. Anthony Latalladi, a twenty-year Guard veteran and a Guardian Mariner team leader. "This is something you can look forward to telling your grandchildren about."[17]

By geographic necessity, the lion's share of the ground forces required for the invasion of Iraq marshaled initially in tiny Kuwait. As the senior military service, the Army was responsible for the reception and quartering of all arriving military personnel and materiel. The training and equipment storage facilities the Army had built after the Persian Gulf War at first greatly assisted in the buildup. However, the amount of troops and equipment streaming into Kuwait required a rapid expansion of facilities. The Army improved and increased logistics, training, military support, and command and control infrastructure throughout the country. The focus of U.S. operations remained Camp Doha, just west of Kuwait City. Soldiers arriving by air on chartered commercial

Camp Navistar was one of several bases American forces used as a staging area in Kuwait before they moved north into Iraq. (2-123rd Field Artillery)

airliners arrived in Kuwait at Camp Wolf, a reception, staging and onward movement facility constructed adjacent to the Kuwait International Airport. A sprawling facility, Camp Wolf served as a holding area for troops awaiting transport to marry up with their equipment and as a supply point where stevedores transloaded pallets of equipment and supplies from aircraft to trucks. Three new expansive camps sprang up in the western Kuwaiti desert to support the invasion force: Camps New York, Pennsylvania and Virginia, all named for states that had taken the brunt of the 9/11 attacks.[18]

By the first week of March, sufficient forces were mustered to permit offensive operations; coalition troops of all nations and services totaled more than 200,000. Of these, nearly 170,000 were U.S. soldiers and Marines who would soon plunge northward toward Baghdad. An additional 60,000 American and British troops were en route to the Gulf. The Turkish government had denied permission to allow U.S. forces to transit its territory and attack into northern Iraq. Instead, the U.S. 4th Infantry Division (Mechanized) would have to pass through Kuwait and follow other coalition forces to Baghdad.[19]

On March 7, U.N. weapons inspectors released a long awaited report on Iraq's WMD programs and its failure to cooperate with inspection teams. The report listed almost thirty instances when officials had not provided sufficient information on WMD programs and concluded that Iraq could still easily possess a WMD arsenal. The report indicated Saddam's determination to remain in power, thus guaranteeing that denial and deception regarding WMD capabilities were sure to continue. President Bush had enough, and on the evening of March 17, issued an ultimatum. Saddam and his two sons, Uday and Qusay, had to leave Iraq within forty-eight hours; their refusal to do so would result in military conflict.[20]

Members of Oklahoma's Company B, 1st Battalion, 179th Infantry wait through a Scud missile alert at their base in Al Jaber, Kuwait, March 2003. (Capt. Colby Wyatt)

The president's ultimatum increased the threat of a preemptive strike against U.S troops in Kuwait. From General Franks on down, coalition commanders believed that the large number of troops massed so closely together in the desert provided Saddam Hussein a target too tempting to resist. Iraq's Scud missiles had caused problems in 1991, and a barrage of Scuds armed with WMD warheads was a credible, serious threat. To counter the danger, Patriot missile batteries were deployed throughout Kuwait with the capability to intercept the incoming Scuds. ARNG units often provided local security for Patriot batteries. Frequent missile alarms and reaction drills became part of the standard routine in Kuwait, both day and night. Television networks provided American viewers with images of troops hunkered down in makeshift sandbag bunkers while wearing full chemical protective suits and gas masks in oppressive heat.

For U.S. troops crowded together in the sweltering bunkers and concentrated in the open desert, the president's announcement of impending combat operations was in many respects a welcome relief. Like their predecessors in previous wars, citizen-soldiers and airmen wanted to get the conflict over with as quickly as possible so they could return home to their families, jobs and friends. With the president's ultimatum, it appeared as though their nerve-wracking wait was finally over.

NOTES

[1] Lt. Col. Geoffrey Slack, Commander, 1st Battalion, 69th Infantry, interview by NGB-VISC Video Team, September 17, 2001, passim. All information regarding Lieutenant Colonel Slack's experiences on September 11, 2001, is from the cited reference unless otherwise noted.

[2] Sean Michael Flynn, *The Fighting 69th: One Remarkable National Guard Unit's Journey from Ground Zero to Baghdad* (New York; Viking, 2007), 32-33.

[3] Lt. Col. Geoffrey Slack, Commander, 1st Battalion, 69th Infantry, "Address to Troops: Release of Battalion from State Active Duty," recorded by Maj. Les Melnyk, NGB Historical Services Division, September 17, 2001, passim; and Flynn, *The Fighting 69th*, ix, 51-52.

[4] Ibid.

[5] Flynn, *The Fighting 69th*, 248-49.

[6] The White House, "President Bush Delivers Graduation Speech at West Point," press release, June 1, 2002, 1-5.

[7] General Tommy Franks with Malcolm McConnell, *American Soldier* (New York: Regan Books, 2004), 385.

[8] Ibid., 329-35.

[9] Ibid., 395-97, 415-16.

[10] Ibid., 365, 400-03.

[11] Ibid., 427.

[12] Mark R. DePue, *Patrolling Baghdad: A Military Police Company and the War in Iraq* (Lawrence, KS: University Press of Kansas, 2007), 9-10.

[13] U.S. European Command, "Operation Northern Watch," information paper, February 20, 2004, 1-3; and NGB, *Annual Review*, 1991, 51.

[14] Col. John Bonin (Ret.), *U.S. Army Forces Central Command in Afghanistan and the Arabian Peninsula During Operation Enduring Freedom: 11 September 2001-11 March 2003* (Carlisle, PA: Army Heritage Center, Monograph 1-03, March 2003), 4; NGB, *Annual Review*, 1998, 94, 98-100; and NGB, *Annual Review*, 1999, 106.

[15] NGB, *Annual Review*, 2003, Appendix B, "Army National Guard Statistics," and Table 3, "ARNG Mobilizations for Active Federal Service, FY 03," 147-97.

[16] Ibid., Appendix C, "Air National Guard Statistics," and Table 2, "ANG Unit Participation Report, FY 03," 203-07; and Charles J. Gross and Susan Rosenfeld, *The Air National Guard at 60: A History*, (Washington, DC: NGB Historical Services Division, 2008), 54-56.

[17] "Puerto Rico Guardsmen Deliver the Goods," *On Guard*, June 2003, 4; and Military Sealift Command, "Guardian Mariners: Protecting the MSC Fleet," information paper, May 2004, 1-3.

[18] Col. Gregory Fontenot (USA-Ret.), Lt. Col E. J. Egen, and Lt. Col David Tohn, *On Point: U.S. Army in Operation Iraqi Freedom* (Washington, DC: U.S. Army, Office of the Chief of Staff, 2004), 31-32, 39.

[19] Franks, *American Soldier*, 428-29.

[20] The White House, "President Says Saddam Hussein Must Leave Iraq Within 48 Hours," remarks by the president in address to the nation, March 17, 2003, passim.

CHAPTER TWO

THE ATTACK ON BAGHDAD, MARCH 19-MAY 1, 2003

THE OPENING BLOWS

Spc. Jeffrey Wershow stood high atop a sand berm marking the Jordan-Iraq border, urging his fellow Americans forward in the very first ground attack of OIF. Though it was pitch-black on the night of March 19, Wershow excitedly waved a flagstaff that displayed the U.S. flag at the top with the Florida state flag just below. SF operators rushed past Wershow in their all-terrain vehicles as they crossed the Iraqi border. They all wore night vision goggles that allowed them to see Wershow's heartening display of patriotism and encouragement at the very start of the war.

Less than three months earlier, Company C, 2nd Battalion, 124th Infantry, from Gainesville, Florida, had been mobilized as part of the largest activation of the Florida National Guard since World War II. The Sunshine State activated over 2,400 citizen-soldiers in nine units for OIF, including three infantry, an engineer, and an air defense battalion, as well as aviation, engineer, ordnance, and transportation companies. Accustomed to being called up for state active duty to respond to hurricanes and wild fires, citizen-soldiers trained and adapted as they deployed on various missions to Afghanistan, the United Arab Emirates, the Balkans, and Guantanamo Bay, Cuba.

Charlie Company drew a particularly critical and sensitive mission. After its call-up in early January, the unit moved to its mobilization station at Fort Stewart, Georgia. On February 15, the company boarded a chartered commercial airliner that eventually carried it to a remote air base in western Jordan. The reception party there consisted of members of the 5th SF Group, who informed the Floridians that they would provide security for the remote airfield—dubbed "H-5"—and support SF operations once the ground war began. For the next month, the citizen-soldiers provided security and trained relentlessly, firing more training ammunition than they normally expended in an entire year. The buildup for war was obvious; H-5 eventually housed nearly 6,000 coalition troops including SF detachments of U.S., U.K. and Australian operators, helicopters of the U.S. 160th Special Operations Aviation Regiment and finally a squadron of A-10 ground attack aircraft. The Guardsmen flew dozens of air missions with the SF aviators that allowed them to learn the tactics and communications techniques they would employ as a QRF once the war started. The training missions not only helped the Floridians master special skills, but developed mutual trust between the Guardsmen and the elite SF operators.[1]

One individual in particular stood out during the deployment: Spc. Jeffrey Wershow of Gainesville. His buddies good-humoredly nicknamed him "The General" because he strode about with a sense of purpose and was a stickler for rules and regulations. Even in the sweltering heat of the Jordanian desert, Wershow stood at attention when addressing his superiors while others assumed a more casual demeanor. He had served in the Regular Army for three years before joining the ARNG. To those who knew him well, Jeffrey Wershow was intelligent, tenacious and gregarious, and his focus in civilian life was to further his education with an eye toward a career in politics.

Three days before the start of the Iraq War, Company C received an important mission. SF teams would deploy into Iraq from Jordan well ahead of the main invasion, but they needed access routes dug through a large sand berm that marked

Jordan's border with Iraq. For three days, the infantrymen labored with picks and shovels to breach the berm with a gap large enough for vehicles to traverse. On the night SF operators crossed into Iraq, Company C provided security for their passage. As the operation began, Jeffrey Wershow ran to the top of the berm to urge his fellow soldiers onward. A video taken that night shows him looking much like an earlier generation of soldiers who raised the flag on Iwo Jima, but this time the standard displayed the Florida state flag just below the Stars and Stripes. "Jeff wanted to make sure everyone knew where we were from," remembered a fellow Florida Guardsman. "It was a sight that all of us who saw it will never forget."

The first overt military action of the war came as a result of "actionable intelligence"—information specific enough to prompt direct action with a reasonable certainty of a positive outcome. Intelligence indicated that Saddam Hussein was to meet with others in the southeastern suburbs of Baghdad at the Dora Farms residential compound, a spot where senior Iraqi leaders were known to congregate. Saddam was to be there for several hours on the night of March 19. Given the time sensitivity of the intelligence and the nature of the target, the Air Force turned to its tried and true strike platform for stealth attacks: the F-117 Nighthawk.

Oklahoma's Company B, 1st Battalion, 179th Infantry was assigned to guard Patriot missile batteries in Kuwait prior to the invasion of Iraq in March 2003 and for a short time afterwards. The unit then moved to secure Tallil Air Base south of Baghdad. (Capt. Colby Wyatt)

At 5:43 a.m. Baghdad time, F-117s dropped four 2,000-lb. bombs on the Dora Farms compound. A live network television feed from downtown caught the flash of the explosions in the distance. Minutes later, forty cruise missiles launched from coalition warships converged on downtown Baghdad, pummeling defense ministry and other government buildings. Air raid sirens wailed, and for the next hours, tracer bullets and anti-aircraft fire arced into the early morning sky. Americans watching at home on television once again saw tracer fire over Baghdad, perhaps reminding them of the opening hours of Operation Desert Storm and instantly informing them that the shooting war with Iraq had finally erupted.[2]

The surprise strike to get Saddam Hussein had the unintended consequence of altering the entire sequence of events for the campaign's start. CENTCOM's original plan called for extensive air strikes sixteen days ahead of the start of major ground combat operations, G-Day. This progression afforded more time for commanders in Kuwait to complete the deployment and preparations of major ground combat units. On March 19, elements of four U.S. divisions—three Army and one Marine—were in Kuwait. Of these, only the U.S. 3rd Infantry Division (Mechanized) was fully consolidated and ready for immediate action. At the same time, the massing of coalition troops in plain view in the Kuwaiti desert had all but eliminated any chances for achieving tactical surprise. General Franks had struggled to develop ways to retain the element of surprise, even suggesting a dramatic narrowing of the time lapse between the start of the air campaign and G-Day. Immediately after the stealth strike, intelligence indicated that Iraqi operatives were moving to sabotage the southern oil fields. Preventing the destruction of the oil fields, with a repeat of the ecological disaster that had occurred in the region in 1991 and possible disruptions in the world's oil markets, was a major coalition objective. To achieve tactical surprise and avoid the destruction of the southern oil fields, President Bush authorized General Franks to execute a "rolling start" by commencing G-Day

Members of the New York ARNG zero their weapons at a firing range in Kuwait before moving into Iraq. Training facilities in Kuwait were essential in preparing ARNG members for combat. (NY NG)

on March 21, two days before the start of the planned air campaign.[3]

During the overnight hours of March 20-21, the 3rd Infantry Division initiated breaching operations to penetrate the barrier zone that existed along the Kuwait-Iraq border. Kuwaiti forces supported the division's 1st and 2nd Brigade Combat Teams (BCT) in breaching the complex of sand berms that marked the international boundary and in providing security as the 3rd BCT and the division cavalry conducted a forward passage of lines into Iraq. Marine and British forces soon followed through the open breaches. Long columns of vehicles crept along bumper to bumper, struggling to keep themselves from becoming mired in the open desert's soft sand while eliminating scattered pockets of enemy resistance. For the army troops composing those first columns—Regulars, Guardsmen and Reservists alike—their long wait was over at last, and ahead of them stretched the long, dangerous road to Baghdad.

THE LONG MARCH UP-COUNTRY

It is axiomatic among military tacticians that the simplest and most reliable troop formation for offensive operations is "two up and one back." In other words, when attacking an enemy objective, commanders are to deploy two-thirds of their available units forward, advancing abreast on the main objective, while the remaining forces move in trail as a reserve, intending to reinforce success or to exploit an unexpected advantage.

In simplest terms, the advance on Baghdad was a classic case of "two up and one back" writ large across the vast, inhospitable terrain of southern Iraq.

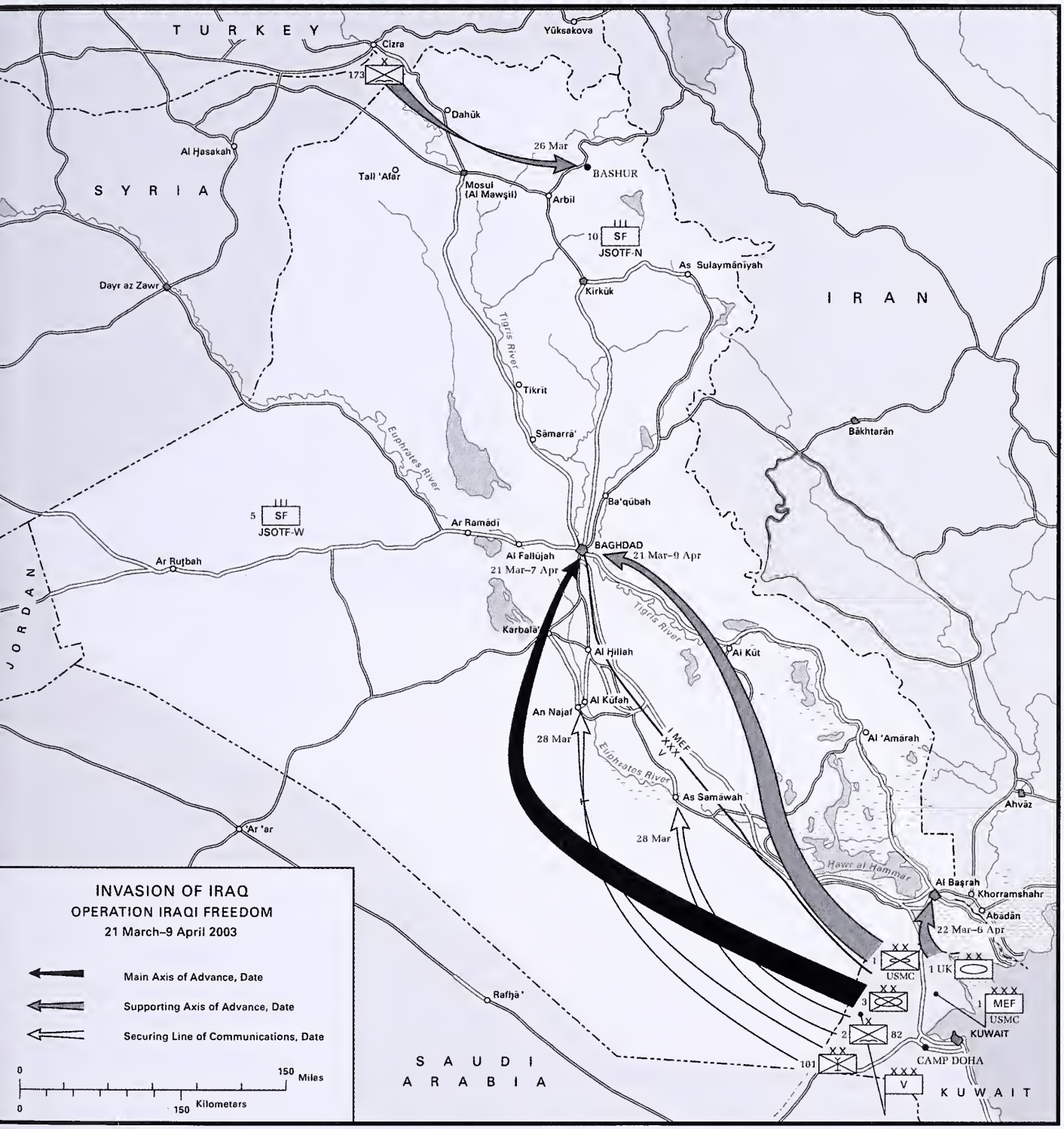
In simplest terms, the advance on Baghdad was a classic case of "two up and one back" writ large across the vast, inhospitable terrain of southern Iraq. Two major U.S. combat formations would

move abreast during the long advance toward the enemy capital. On the left, the U.S. V Corps would command parts of four Army divisions—the 3rd Infantry, 101st Airborne (Air Assault), 82nd Airborne and eventually the 4th Infantry—on an axis that followed the line of the Euphrates River. On the right, the I Marine Expeditionary Force (MEF) would rely on the combat power of the 1st Marine Division supported by various Army units to drive up the Tigris River and close on Baghdad from the southeast. The coalition's "one back" force was the British, consisting mostly of the 1st Armoured Division. After crossing into Iraq, the British would veer right, secure the southern oil fields and Iraqi port facilities and conduct operations in and around Basra. V Corps and I MEF would attack north without a trailing reserve force and converge south of Baghdad before entering the Iraqi capital in concert. (See Map 1.)

The 350-mile advance on Baghdad inserted soldiers and Marines into an entirely new operational environment. For most, Iraq was big and hot. With a land mass of nearly a quarter of a million square miles, Iraq was slightly larger than California. In 2003, the population stood at just short of 25 million. Baghdad was the largest city by far with 5.5 million; Mosul and Basra were the next largest with populations of 1.7 and 1.3 million, respectively. The country was divided into eighteen provinces, each with its own provincial capital. The wide valley of the Tigris and Euphrates rivers dominated the geography of central and southern Iraq while wide, open deserts predominated in the north and west. Hot temperatures, high winds and blowing sands presented formidable challenges to personnel and equipment. Americans learned to drink lots of water, to wear eye protection and to maintain their weapons and equipment against the ravages of heat and sand.

The drive on Baghdad pitted U.S. ground forces against an array of Iraqi defenders. The most numerous and easily recognizable opponents were the uniformed forces of the Iraqi Army. The 300,000 troops organized into seventeen divisions. The elite Republican Guard numbered another 80,000 soldiers. The best intelligence estimates stated that Iraqi major weapons included over 2,200 tanks, 2,400 personnel carriers and 4,000 artillery pieces. Iraqi generals positioned these forces well to contest a coalition advance up the Tigris-Euphrates corridor, and it seemed as though Saddam Hussein was intent on massing the Republican Guard for a stubborn stand at the gates of the nation's capital. As V Corps and I MEF plunged north, they encountered Iraqi resistance that ranged from dispirited to fanatical. Generally, organized Iraqi units did not surrender or offer a vigorous defense; most Iraqi soldiers just melted away into the countryside, villages and urban centers.[4]

The most stubborn defense came from fanatical militia elements that caught the Americans by complete surprise. The most prominent group was the *Fedayeen Saddam* (the literal translation is "Saddam's Martyrs"), die-hard Saddam loyalists who relied more on raw courage and fanaticism than discipline and training to conduct attacks. The second group consisted of *Al Quds*, local militia groups organized around the Baath Party. These irregulars armed themselves with a variety of light and heavy weapons and used commercial light trucks for tactical movement and attacks. Uday Hussein had organized the Fedayeen Saddam and Al Quds, and rumors circulated that his inspiration had been the truck-mounted Somali "technicals," depicted in the movie *Black Hawk Down*, who had bloodied American troops in Mogadishu, Somalia, in October 1993. Significant caches of hidden weapons and ammunition supported the militias at every turn. The irregulars preferred to engage Americans in crowded urban areas that prevented coalition troops from maneuvering freely and unleashing overwhelming firepower. Bound by established rules of engagement (ROE) that prohibited them from firing on civilians, frustrated American troops peppered their higher headquarters with repeated requests to open fire on the guerillas. The Iraqi militias scored a dramatic victory in An Nasiriyah on March 23, when they



Map 1. The Attack on Baghdad

mauled a convoy of the Army's 507th Maintenance Company, killing, wounding and capturing several Americans.[5]

The National Guard's first fatality in OIF came from fratricide, rather than enemy action. Maj. Gregory L. Stone of the Idaho ANG was an air liaison officer assigned to the 124th Air Support Operations Squadron and detached for the ground war to the 1st Brigade, 101st Airborne Division. On active duty, he had worked at the Air Expeditionary Force Battle Lab at Mountain Home Air Force Base as a weapons systems officer on B-1 bombers. He left the active duty Air Force in 2000, joined the Idaho Air Guard, and began to pursue a civilian career in aviation. Major Stone, age 40, was excited to put some of his battle lab projects into practice in Iraq and looked forward to expanding his business ventures when he returned home to Boise. During his time in Kuwait, Greg Stone remained a committed father and family member. His friends remembered how he had stood in line for two hours to make a quick phone call to his sons, ages 7 and 11, and he often checked on his ailing father by e-mail.

By March 23, the 1st Brigade had occupied a forward position at Camp Pennsylvania as a prelude to crossing the Iraqi border behind the 3rd Infantry Division. That night, explosions and automatic gunfire unexpectedly rocked the brigade headquarters. Soldiers assumed that somehow terrorists had struck, but to their astonishment, they soon discovered that one of their own had perpetrated the attack. Sgt. Hasan Akbar, a Muslim from Los Angeles, was allegedly driven to violence by fellow soldiers who made derogatory comments about his religion. Sergeant Akbar also feared Americans would kill Muslim women and children in Iraq, and his reckless attack on the brigade command post was intended to disrupt the invasion. He threw grenades into at least three tents housing the brigade staff and then riddled them with automatic rifle fire. Soldiers responded quickly to the attack, but the damage was already done.

Maj. Gregory L. Stone (ID NG)

Major Stone and an Army officer, Capt. Christopher Seifert, were mortally wounded, and fourteen others received serious wounds. Immediately following the attack, soldiers tried to save Greg Stone's life, but he died from his wounds on March 25. He was buried at Arlington National Cemetery in a solemn ceremony on April 17, 2003, the first Air Force and Air Guard fatality of OIF. Akbar was detained shortly after the attack and eventually court martialed. In April 2005, a military jury at Fort Bragg, North Carolina, found him guilty on two counts of premeditated murder and three counts of attempted premeditated murder, sentencing him to death.[6]

Portions of eight infantry battalions comprised the ARNG's most significant direct combat contribution during the advance on Baghdad. (See Chart 1.) Prior to the onset of hostilities, they had trained in the Kuwaiti desert, operated as QRFs and provided security for Patriot missile

batteries, command centers and supply points. Their missions after G-Day were as varied and diverse as the four states from which they were drawn. Common missions included providing security and serving as QRFs at SF compounds, guarding enemy prisoners of war (PW) and establishing hasty PW holding areas. For most citizen-soldiers, the foray into Iraq was their baptism of fire in combat. The grunts frequently discovered hidden weapons caches and stood guard until the ordnance had been properly detonated. Preserving Iraqi infrastructure was a priority, and Guardsmen protected dams, power stations and oil fields. The battalions usually served as independent companies, platoons and squads throughout the V Corps and I MEF sectors and in the western desert with SF operators. Frequent attachment to various organizations, ever-changing missions and vast distances between units presented battalion and company commanders with formidable command and control challenges. The top priority was to ensure that their troops received clearly defined missions and adequate logistical and administrative support. Commanders used e-mail, satellite telephones and helicopter transport to keep in touch with widely dispersed units while planning and executing missions.

Chart 1. ARNG Infantry Units at the Start of OIF

UNIT	STATE	TROOP STRENGTH
1st Battalion, 124th Infantry	FL	564
2nd Battalion, 124th Infantry	FL	471
3rd Battalion, 124th Infantry	FL	512
1st Battalion, 152nd Infantry	IN	647
1st Battalion, 293rd Infantry	IN	638
1st Battalion, 162nd Infantry	OR	392
Company A, 1-179th Infantry	OK	74
Company A, 1-296th Infantry	PR	89
		Total = 3,387

The operations of Florida's 3rd Battalion, 124th Infantry, commanded by Lt. Col. Thad Hill, were typical of infantry missions in the war's opening phase. The battalion was activated the day after Christmas 2002 and reported to its mobilization station at Fort Stewart in the first week of January 2003. Out of a full battalion compliment of nearly 700 Guardsmen, only Companies A, B and C and the Headquarters and Headquarters Company (HHC) were mobilized, placing 564 personnel on active duty. Colonel Hill's battalion then deployed to Kuwait in two increments. Companies A and C arrived in Kuwait on February 15 and provided security for Patriot missile batteries. Company B and the HHC did not arrive until near G-Day.[7]

Companies A and C were attached to the 1st BCT, 3rd Infantry Division, for the advance on Baghdad. Eventually, Company B joined them, but the HHC was assigned to the Army's 220th MP Brigade to provide static base security. The challenges Colonel Hill and his troops faced during the march up-country were similar to those other ARNG units experienced. The Floridians were light infantrymen with only one Humvee assigned to each company, and the lack of organic transport greatly inhibited all aspects of operations, especially because they were attached to fast-moving, mechanized forces. Colonel Hill's command and control problems were nearly insurmountable. During the lightning drive north, he lost contact with Companies A and C for two weeks. At one point, he had personnel spread from Baghdad to Kuwait, a distance of nearly 400 miles. All companies served under numerous commands. As Colonel Hill kept count, the number finally rose to twelve different organizations in less than a month. After the capture of Baghdad, the 3-124th Infantry was finally reunited and assigned to security missions. Despite the confusion and hectic pace of the advance, the Floridians were successful because they focused on their immediate missions, performing them to the best of their ability.[8]

Indiana's 1st Battalion, 293rd Infantry, achieved an important first during the ground attack. Commanded by Lt. Col. Ivan Denton, the advance party of the 1-293rd reached Kuwait on New Year's Day with the remainder of the battalion arriving by the end of January. In the weeks before G-Day, the battalion was scattered about Kuwait on rear area security duties as diverse as convoy escort

duty and the protection of port facilities, a portion of the Kuwait International Airport, and forward bases in the western desert. The Indianans were still performing these missions when OIF started.[9]

A checkpoint at Tallil Air Base manned by citizen-soldiers from Indiana's Company A, 1st Battalion, 152nd Infantry on April 15, 2003. The day marked the first meeting of the Iraqi National Congress in An Nasiriyah near the air base, and the company's mission was to prevent protestors from reaching the meeting site. (Capt. Bradley Compton)

Colonel Denton's real challenge came on March 25. In the immediate aftermath of the initial advance into southern Iraq, ground forces were attempting to organize a logistics support area (LSA) at Tallil Air Base. The active duty infantry battalion assigned to provide security at the LSA was unexpectedly ordered farther north to participate in the ground attack toward Baghdad. On the evening of March 25, Colonel Denton received orders to concentrate his battalion, move north to Tallil, and assume the LSA security mission. At the time, most of the 1-293rd was scattered throughout Kuwait. Hastily assembling the forces immediately available—a small command post, a mortar platoon, one scout team and two rifle platoons—the battalion commander headed north for Tallil with this advance party on the morning of March 26. Despite a mix-up in orders, he was able to coordinate a battle handoff with the Regulars guarding the LSA and to issue orders for his rifle companies to move there immediately. The entire 1-293rd was assembled at Tallil by March 28, and that afternoon assumed the security mission. As a result, the 1-293rd became the first ARNG infantry battalion since the Korean War to enter combat as a unit.[10]

It is often said that when considering warfare amateurs talk tactics while professionals ponder logistics. For all the reliance on high technology and sophisticated weapons, the advance on Baghdad and the subsequent consolidation of all hard fought gains depended ultimately on logistics. As combat formations rushed northward, long convoys of trucks snaked behind bringing forward the maintenance, medical and supply support a modern army requires. In addition, the fighting often damaged or disrupted Iraqi civilian infrastructure, and the coalition felt obligated to distribute food, water and other humanitarian assistance to the population. Dozens of ARNG support units helped with all of these missions during the war's first weeks.

The 2220th Transportation Company (TC) from Arizona was one of the ARNG's combat support units fully committed during the push on Baghdad. Manned by 152 citizen-soldiers, the 2220th TC was headquartered in Flagstaff with a detachment in Prescott. A medium truck company, its mission was to transport both dry and refrigerated containerized cargo, general non-containerized cargo and bulk water by truck. Capt. Kenneth W. Stice, the company commander, received the unit's mobilization order on February 3, 2003. The entire company assembled at the Flagstaff armory seven days later to make final preparations to convoy to its mobilization station at Fort Bliss, Texas. The Guardsmen arrived there on February 13, began administrative processing immediately, and post-mobilization training shortly thereafter. By mid-March, 95 percent of the unit had completed all required training and was on standby for a chartered commercial airliner to carry it to war.[11]

The 2220th TC arrived by air in Kuwait on March 28. Although its trucks had not yet arrived by sea, the company began hauling supplies into Iraq on March 31, using another unit's vehicles. Five days later, the 2220th's mission changed dramatically. It drew fifty vehicles from

ARNG troops discovered hidden weapon caches throughout Iraq during the early stages of the war and afterwards. Citizen-soldiers from Illinois' Company C, 2nd Battalion, 130th Infantry, an element of the 48th BCT, examine a weapons cache near Fallujah in 2006. (2-130th Infantry)

prepositioned equipment sets in Kuwait and was ordered to report immediately to Tallil Air Base. The Arizonans arrived there on April 7, one of the first Army TCs to be based within Iraq. SF operators then informed Captain Stice that his company was to support covert missions throughout southern and central Iraq. The trucks were soon transporting SF operators and their equipment, captured enemy materials and PWs. The Arizonans constantly ran the gauntlet through dangerous areas, often skirting firefights. The most hazardous duty was loading, transporting and unloading captured enemy rifles, mortars and rocket-propelled grenades (RPG) by hand and hauling ordnance from discovered weapons caches to detonation pits for destruction. Moving north with an SF detachment, a convoy became one of the first National Guard contingents to enter Baghdad. Over a period of eight weeks, the 2220th ran over seventy missions in support of the SF, with the typical mission lasting 5-7 days.

All other company assets were ordered to help establish and sustain supply operations at the new American base at Tallil. Drivers constantly shuttled back and forth between supply points in Kuwait and Tallil, hauling other units' equipment and all classes of supply. The 2220th was the only TC assigned permanently to Tallil and supported the base in every respect, especially the transport of food, fuel and ice. As temperatures rose with the approach of summer, the Arizonans increasingly hauled bottled water and ice northward from Kuwait, running convoys in temperatures that reached well over 100 degrees. By mid-May, the 2220th was increasingly conducting humanitarian relief operations, delivering food, water, clothes, blankets and medical supplies to schools, hospitals and orphanages in Nasiriyah and surrounding villages. Whenever an offload point appeared threatening, truck crews grabbed their rifles and provided security while others unloaded the supplies.

"Soldiers of Iraq, Saddam does not care for the military of Iraq!" Thus began a psychological warfare message in an air operation aimed at dismantling the Iraqi Army using words and images rather than bombs and bullets. Four days after G-Day, the Air Force Special Operations Command sent aloft an EC-130E from Pennsylvania's 193rd Special Operations Wing to broadcast surrender messages to Iraqi forces blocking the road to Baghdad. The 193rd's crews and planes had participated in the opening phases of every major conflict since the invasion of Grenada in 1983. Constant deployments and training missions had rightly earned the wing the reputation as the most deployed unit in the entire National Guard. The aircraft had been particularly effective in the Persian Gulf War, with more than 50 percent of Iraqi PWs indicating that psychological warfare messages had influenced their decision to throw down their weapons. Saddam Hussein allegedly ordered his air defense units to make the destruction of EC-130s a priority, even over coalition fighters and bombers.[12]

EC-130s from Pennsylvania's 193rd Special Operations Wing were among the first waves of coalition aircraft to penetrate hostile airspace at the beginning of Operation Iraqi Freedom and played a key role in the psychological warfare operations that followed. (NGAUS)

The 193rd initially flew missions outside of Iraqi airspace, yet close enough to allow transmissions into the majority of western Iraq. The EC-130's large, unique antennae and bulbous pods that allowed an eleven-man crew to transmit audio and video messages to both enemy combatants and civilians made the aircraft susceptible to ground fire, and the air defense threat over Iraq was high during the campaign's first two weeks. Air crews transmitted messages while orbiting for long periods in tracks beyond the range of enemy air defenses. By the first week in April, the 193rd was operating over northern Iraq and transmitting messages into the Sunni Triangle, hoping to convince Saddam loyalists and the last organized units of the Iraqi Army to give up. "If we get one person to put his gun down and surrender," one unit member said, "think about how many Americans that might have been saved." Flight operations over Iraq once again highlighted the 193rd's unique capabilities, lending further credence to its motto: "Never Seen, Always Heard!"[13]

The Air Guard deployed 7,207 citizen-airmen and 236 aircraft of all types for the opening phase of the Iraq War. ANG refuelers and airlifters were essential to the buildup of coalition forces, but once the fighting started, combat aircraft played an equally vital role in the success of the ground offensive. During the advance on Baghdad, almost 80 percent of air operations were close air support or pre-planned strikes against fixed targets. Air attacks on Iraqi forces directly opposing coalition troops usually resulted in their destruction or surrender. Combat aircraft routinely pounced on enemy columns fleeing northward, either destroying them or compelling the Iraqis to abandon their equipment and flee.[14]

The Air Guard provided nearly half of the Air Force's attack aircraft, including 47 A-10s and 45 F-16s. Most combat aircraft were assigned to one of four AEWs organized for the campaign. (See Chart 2.) Due to the size and scope of the ANG's commitment, many Air Guard senior officers served in command positions. Flying from several large bases throughout the region, F-16s and A-10s ranged the width and breadth of Iraq, attacking both pre-planned targets and targets of opportunity. A number of F-16 units flew missions over the western desert, searching for Iraqi Scud missile launchers capable of striking

America's allies in the region. The A-10s added to their reputation as a potent, reliable and rugged ground attack aircraft that struck fear into the hearts of the enemy while buoying the morale of friendly forces.[15]

Chart 2. ANG Combat Units at the Start of OIF

UNIT	STATE	AIRCRAFT
387th Air Expeditionary Group		
103rd Fighter Wing	CT	A-10s
104th Fighter Wing	MA	A-10s
410th Air Expeditionary Wing		
187th Fighter Wing	AL	F-16s
140th Fighter Wing	CO	F-16s
113th Fighter Wing	DC	F-16s
332nd Air Expeditionary Wing		
124th Fighter Wing	ID	A-10s
110th Fighter Wing	MI	A-10s
111th Fighter Wing	PA	A-10s
379th Air Expeditionary Wing		
169th Fighter Wing	SC	F-16s

One of the Air Guard's most critical combat missions at the start of OIF was sustained close air support for U.S. forces fighting for control of the Hadithah Dam complex. Located on the Euphrates River approximately one hundred miles northwest of Baghdad, the extensive dam facilities provided irrigation and electrical power for most of western Iraq. The Hadithah Dam was even more crucial as a military target. If the Iraqis opened wide the dam's locks or even demolished the structure, a torrent of water would flood the lower Euphrates, creating a disaster of unimaginable proportions and blocking the advance of coalition forces. To prevent such a calamity, Army Rangers were ordered to capture the dam. In advance of ground operations, the 410th AEW carried out preparatory air strikes against Iraqi forces defending the area.

Starting in late March, troops from the 3rd Battalion, 75th Ranger Regiment fought to wrest

The rugged A-10 Thunderbolt provided much needed close air support to coalition ground troops during the attack on Baghdad. Despite the damage to this Air Guard A-10 from enemy ground fire, it returned to base safely for repairs. (DVIC)

control of Hadithah Dam from Iraqi armored and infantry forces who were just as determined to defend it. Air power provided the margin of victory throughout the extended battle. ANG A-10s and F-16s delivered accurate, timely fire for Army Rangers who were greatly outnumbered. Hoping to gain an advantage, the Iraqis mounted several determined night attacks, but the tactic played directly into American hands. Using sophisticated targeting sights and night vision equipment, Air Guard pilots pummeled the enemy when they were most exposed. A-10s from the 410th provided near continuous air cover, giving the Rangers a much needed psychological boost and allowing the evacuation of the dead and wounded. By April 19, determination and firepower had won the day, and the dam complex was firmly in American hands. Weeks later, Army Rangers credited the combat skills of ANG pilots for their survival and success at Hadithah Dam.[16]

Reflecting its balanced composition of air and ground assets, the ANG sent over 3,530 citizen-airmen to Iraq for expeditionary combat support functions. Air traffic controllers, airspace managers, maintainers and engineers represented the bulk of the deployment. As much as 40 percent of the mobile control towers, navigation aids and radars in Iraq belonged to the Air Guard. Over 27 percent of the Air Force's entire engineer assets in Iraq came from the Air Guard. In addition,

Maj. James Ewald, an A-10 pilot with the 172nd Fighter Squadron, 110th Fighter Wing, Michigan ANG, was shot down and rescued during Operation Iraqi Freedom on April 8, 2003. (NGB)

citizen-airmen served as intelligence analysts at key headquarters and command centers. Other Air Guard personnel directly participated in OIF in a very indirect way. Sitting at control consoles in the United States, citizen-airmen remotely piloted Global Hawk and Predator unmanned aerial vehicles (UAV) on intelligence gathering missions in Southwest Asia.[17]

THE CAPTURE OF BAGHDAD

In the first days of OIF, American ground forces made spectacular advances against scattered but determined resistance. Lead elements of the 3rd Infantry Division streaked northward nearly 200 miles to reach the outskirts of An Najaf. However, the Iraqis soon recovered from the shock of the initial ground attack. Resistance increased from Iraqi Army and Republican Guard units, and especially from the Fedayeen Saddam and Al Quds militias. The American advance exposed an ever-lengthening supply line which was particularly vulnerable to attacks from guerilla forces. In an extraordinary use of elite troops, V Corps deployed elements of the 101st Air Assault and 82nd Airborne Divisions to perform rear-area security.

As V Corps and I MEF pressed on toward Baghdad, a sequence of events demonstrated the limits of American might. A powerful series of sandstorms swept through central Iraq from March 25 to 27, bringing ground operations to a grinding halt. Strong winds whipped dense plumes of sand across the desert. Sand and raindrops mingled to produce what troops described as a mudstorm. In the Pentagon, the halt in operations was euphemistically dubbed an "operational pause," but those on the ground saw firsthand that Mother Nature's full fury still had the power to paralyze the most modern military machine ever deployed. The Air Force had finally unleashed its much hyped "shock and awe" campaign, but with few real results. Other than demolishing governmental buildings in the heart of Baghdad, the strategic air bombardment apparently shocked and awed no one.

After the sandstorms subsided, V Corps and I MEF continued the blitz. The approach of coalition forces prompted units of the Republican Guard to make a stand south of the capital, but superior American technology and firepower resulted in their total defeat. After the shock and awe bombardment, the Air Force increasingly turned its attention to the destruction of Iraqi ground forces. Precision guided munitions performed splendidly in the destruction of pinpoint targets and armored vehicles. Thermal sights and night vision goggles (NVG) allowed troops to detect and destroy enemy targets during reduced visibility conditions.

On April 4, the 3rd Infantry Division battered its way through waning resistance from the Republican Guard to seize the Baghdad

International Airport (BIAP) located in the capital's western environs. Meanwhile, the Marines attacked up the Tigris River to cut off Baghdad from the east. The next day, the 3rd Infantry Division launched an armored BCT into the city's center in a "thunder run" that exploited mobility and firepower to splinter and demoralize an increasingly disorganized enemy. By April 7, other heavy columns reached central Baghdad, this time to stay permanently. The Marines moved into the city from the east, completing its encirclement and guaranteeing the demise of Saddam's regime. On April 9, a worldwide television audience watched in wonderment as a detachment of Marines assisted a crowd of jubilant Iraqis in toppling a towering statue of Saddam Hussein in central Baghdad. The symbolism and apparent decisiveness of the moment seemed to indicate that the blitzkrieg campaign was over and peace would soon be restored. However, events throughout Iraq would soon indicate otherwise.

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With its four engines pulling hard, a C-130 Hercules made a steep, corkscrew descent in the dark of night toward the runway at BIAP, maneuvering erratically in an effort to avoid possible enemy ground fire. The 3rd Infantry Division had captured the airport only twenty-four hours earlier, and the approaching C-130 was only the third coalition aircraft to land. On board were portions of two platoons from Company B, 1st Battalion, 152nd Infantry of the Indiana ARNG, led by the company commander, 1st Lt. Daniel C. Bell. BIAP was not yet fully secure, and Iraqi forces had launched ferocious counterattacks to wrest it from American control. The fight was still undecided, and a call had gone out to rush reinforcements to the airport. Elements from the 101st Air Assault had already arrived, but more infantry was still needed, and Company B had been emergency airlifted from near Basra in the far south all the way north to Baghdad. The C-130 finally touched down in the darkness and quickly taxied to the flight line where the Hoosiers conducted a rapid combat offload. Lieutenant Bell soon learned that he was to assume responsibility for defending a portion of the BIAP perimeter, just as soon as he could get his infantrymen in place.[18]

The previous one hundred days had been a whirlwind for the 1-152nd Infantry, especially Company B. The battalion had been ordered to active duty on January 2 and reported to its mobilization station at Camp Atterbury, Indiana. Despite temperatures that routinely dipped below zero, the infantrymen conducted tactical maneuvers, day and night live fire exercises and chemical defense training. But the stay at Atterbury was short-lived; the battalion arrived in Kuwait on February 11. Stepping off the chartered commercial airliner, outdoor temperatures fully seventy degrees warmer than those in Indiana nearly overcame the Hoosiers. For the next weeks, the grunts provided security and operational support to Camp Wolf. When G-Day arrived, Company B was detached and assigned to the 5th SF Group, first in Nasiriyah and then in Basra. The Guardsmen experienced their first taste of combat while providing security for SF forward operating bases (FOB) and during combat patrols with coalition SF operators. Suddenly, on April 7, Lieutenant Bell had received orders to load his men up for the unexpected flight to BIAP.

In the dark of night on April 8, the Indiana Guardsmen deployed to one portion of the BIAP perimeter designated as FOB 53. While troops

dug mortar and machine gun emplacements and established defensive positions, Lieutenant Bell coordinated with adjacent units from the 101st Air Assault. With daybreak came a better awareness of their defensive position. Within FOB 53 stood a Republican Guard barracks and associated bunker complex. A thorough search of the structures revealed multiple caches of weapons, ammunition, rations and NVGs. One of the Indiana farm boys discovered an abandoned tractor, cranked it up by hot-wiring the starter, and hitching a trailer to it, hauled ammunition, supplies and personnel around the FOB. The most elaborate structure in Company B's zone was Rawaniyah Palace, an ornate building that Saddam Hussein had used as a safe house and sleeping quarters in conjunction with flights in and out of BIAP. One platoon took up residence in the palace and established perimeter security. During its first twenty-four hours at FOB 53, Company B received sporadic gun fire and repelled a number of night probing attacks.

The big surprise came the next day. A mob of over one thousand angry civilians surged toward Rawaniyah Palace, poured into the grounds and began systematically to plunder the entire structure. Not sure what to do in the face of such overwhelming numbers, the Hoosiers held their fire and withdrew a short distance. Lieutenant Bell radioed for orders; the Guardsmen were to stand aside, not interfere with the looting and act only to prevent the loss of life or structural damage to the palace. Even more frenzied Iraqi civilians swarmed inside until the horde reached an estimated 4-5,000. Citizen-soldiers watched in disbelief as the Iraqis stripped the palace clean by carrying off anything of value, from toilets and light fixtures to carpeting, window frames and doors. Staring at the surreal, chaotic spectacle, the Indiana Guardsmen saw that toppling Saddam's regime might have been a far easier task than introducing democracy and peace to the Iraqi people.

The coalition's very first MP unit to reach the heart of Baghdad was Illinois' 233rd MP Company. After completing its post-mobilization training at Fort McCoy, Wisconsin, the 233rd arrived by air at the Kuwait International Airport in the early morning hours of April 6. After a short stay at Camp Wolf, the MPs went by bus to Camp Virginia in the west Kuwaiti desert. For the next two weeks, Captain Royer's MPs lived in tents while acclimating themselves to the sweltering heat and receiving their equipment. The MPs received no cultural training to familiarize themselves with the Iraqi people, so on their own, they produced handouts and brochures that taught Arab customs and basic language skills. Throughout the company area, the MPs traded Arabic words and phrases meant to ease their interactions with the Iraqis. "Show me your hands, or I will shoot" was one of the phrases they memorized. Later on, the Illinois Guardsmen discovered that the expression actually translated as "Show me your hands, *and* I will shoot."[19]

On Easter Sunday morning, April 20, the 233rd departed Camp Virginia in a convoy heading directly for the Iraqi capital. Due to a last-minute change, the citizen-soldiers were heading into combat with the 519th MP Battalion from Fort Polk, Louisiana, a unit completely different from the one with which they had conducted all previous training and coordination. In turn, the 519th was part of the Army's 18th MP Brigade that had drawn one of the toughest assignments of the war to date: establish security in central Baghdad and help rebuild the city's police force. However, there was one problem. The flow of forces into Kuwait had prevented the orderly buildup of MP outfits, and the 233rd was the 18th MP Brigade's only available unit. As such, the Illinois Guardsmen formed the tip of the spear to pacify downtown Baghdad, not only for the 18th MP Brigade, but for the entire U.S. Army.

The first leg of the convoy northward carried the 233rd to Tallil Air Base where they rested overnight, sleeping on cots under the stars. The next morning, the convoy left Tallil just after daybreak. The Guardsmen drank profuse amounts of water from plastic bottles as they took in the lay of the land, viewed the scattered villages and received the curious gazes of Iraqi onlookers.

The procession of vehicles experienced two difficulties common to any convoy: a wrong turn and a vehicle breakdown.

One of the Humvees had a flat tire, and the MPs quickly established security while others worked to replace it. Gunfire suddenly erupted from a nearby village, and several bullets ricocheted off the ground and zipped through the air as the 233rd received its baptism of fire in the Iraq War. A couple of MPs caught a glimpse of the shooters, but they quickly disappeared. With other Iraqis milling about innocently in the village, the Americans were unable to return fire. One bullet had struck the ground only a few inches from Captain Royer who remembered the ambush as his "welcome to Iraq" moment.

The convoy approached Baghdad from the west on the late afternoon of April 21, reaching the relative security of BIAP. But the interlude was short. During a new mission briefing, the MPs learned their final destination; the government sector in central Baghdad that coalition forces soon called the "Green Zone." The MPs again piled back into their HMMWVs, and the convoy of more than fifty vehicles from the headquarters of the 519th MP Battalion and the 233rd MP Company prepared to move out under the cover of night.

Departing the bright sanctuary of BIAP, the convoy plunged into complete darkness. There was no moon that night, and Baghdad was largely without electricity. Scattered illumination occasionally lit the ominous night along with the muzzle flashes of sporadic gunfire. A strict civilian curfew was in effect, enforced by a handful of patrols from the 3rd Infantry Division, but in a city of over five million, the American presence was all but insignificant. On more than one occasion, the convoy made its way through a checkpoint of cement road dividers manned by

Like most coalition forces arriving in Baghdad, ARNG members wondered what was to follow. Lt. Joel Ferris and Master Sgt. Roger Ducharme of Illinois' 233rd MP Company pause amidst the rubble in the Green Zone on April 21, 2003, their first morning in Baghdad. (233rd MP Company)

U.S. forces. Before the convoy reached the Green Zone, a tense moment developed when a portion of the column became separated from the main body. Sound leadership, reliable instincts and a portion of good luck allowed the Americans to reunite in the darkness without incident. Before daybreak, the 233rd arrived at its new home on the banks of the Tigris River—with citizen-soldiers wondering what new challenges and dangers the sunrise would bring.

With Baghdad captured and Saddam Hussein, his two sons, and their henchmen on the run, coalition forces turned their attention to the war's second major objective: the hunt for WMD. The group initially responsible for all WMD search efforts was the Army's 75th Exploitation Task Force (TF). Organized from elements of the 75th Field Artillery Brigade from Fort Sill, Oklahoma, TF 75's mission was to scour the country looking for clandestine stockpiles of outlawed weapons. It included an exceptional bundling of talent uniquely capable of locating and handling WMD: biologists, chemists, arms treaty enforcers, nuclear specialists, computer and document experts and a collection of Army and SF personnel.

In the wake of the invading force, TF 75 searched nineteen known weapons sites and sixty-eight suspected sites. Survey teams combed laboratories and munitions plants, bunkers and distilleries, bakeries and vaccine factories, file cabinets and even holes in the ground where tipsters advised them to dig. Investigators consistently found potential WMD sites to be looted, burned or improperly identified. By mid-May the search had produced few tangible results, and TF 75 became more of an intelligence gathering unit than a tool of WMD discovery. The next month the task force was disbanded, replaced by the Iraq Study Group, which was to conduct a more thorough and systematic search for WMD.[20]

The National Guard made two important contributions to TF 75 and the hunt for WMD. Most of the task force's aviation assets came from the 1st Battalion, 147th Aviation of the Wisconsin ARNG. The day after Christmas 2002, Lt. Col. Thomas Rhatican, the 1-147th's commander, discovered that his UH-60 battalion had been assigned to support TF 75. Immediately, the two groups held discussions on the tactics and techniques for inserting and extracting search teams and the transport of WMD. Mobilization day on February 2, 2003, found the Black Hawk helicopter battalion ready to go "to the sandbox." Since August 2002, nearly all of the unit's pilots, crew chiefs, mechanics and staff personnel had gained experience in desert operations during rotations to Kuwait.[21]

In the war zone, Colonel Rhatican's command grew to a full-fledged aviation task force with the addition of an ARNG Black Hawk detachment and three Army Reserve CH-47 Chinook companies. After G-Day, TF 1-147 flew its first mission in support of TF 75 by airlifting a Humvee to Tallil Air Base and backhauling classified documents linked to Iraqi WMD programs. In the following weeks, the Guard aviators operated from Tallil and other locations while providing logistical and transportation support and airlifting bundles of classified documents to intelligence collection sites in Kuwait. In early May, a 1-147th detachment moved to Baghdad, and after mounting special monitoring equipment on one aircraft, flew low-

A Black Hawk crew chief from Wisconsin's 1-147th Aviation conducts a pre-flight mission briefing on May 7, 2003, for a team of Kuwaiti forensic scientists headed to inspect a mass grave site discovered in Iraq. (1-147th Aviation)

level radiological surveys over the capital and surrounding area. Without TF 1-147th's aviation support, TF 75 would have had extreme difficulty conducting its search for WMD.

Linguistic support for TF 75 came from Utah's 142nd Military Intelligence Battalion. Mobilized on January 24, 2003, the 142nd, commanded by Lt. Col. Edward Gundersen, who had been a unit member for twenty-four years, at first received the mission to operate a joint interrogation facility in support of the initial attack on Baghdad. However, the diversion of the 4th Infantry Division's heavy equipment from Turkey to Kuwait delayed the 142nd's arrival in theater. Once in Kuwait, Colonel Gundersen learned that V Corps and I MEF had already established their own interrogation facilities. On April 19, the 200 Utah Guardsmen received orders to support TF 75. In less than a week, linguists and interrogators were moving north by convoy and helicopter with site survey teams. Intelligence analysts performed threat analysis while linguists spoke with the population to garner local information about WMD activities. Just as many other citizen-soldiers pulled security, drove trucks and performed just about any task that was necessary, all in a spirit of getting the job done. When TF 75 disbanded, the 142nd remained in direct support of the Iraq Study Group.[22]

A brisk sea wind swept across the flight deck of the USS *Abraham Lincoln* on May 1, 2003, as President Bush stepped to the podium. Surrounding the president was a detail of sailors from the ship's crew, all sailing home to San Diego after a 100,000-mile deployment—one of the longest in the Navy's history—in support of the wars in Afghanistan and Iraq. Three weeks earlier coalition forces had entered Baghdad, forcing Saddam and his sons to flee. Now troops were working to quell the unexpected outbreak of looting and violence that gripped most of Iraq's major cities. The commander in chief had decided to fly out to *Abraham Lincoln* as it approached the California coastline, using the symbolic moment to announce to his fellow countrymen and the rest of the world the great success of the Iraq invasion. Behind the president, a huge banner hung from the aircraft carrier's towering center island that proclaimed: "Mission Accomplished!"

At the very start of the address, President Bush declared that "major combat operations in Iraq have ended." He praised the military for its skill and might in rapidly capturing Baghdad, describing the long march up-country as "one of the swiftest advances of heavy arms in history." Now that major combat was over, the coalition would turn to "securing and reconstructing" Iraq. The immediate tasks were to round up the remnant of Saddam's regime and to locate hidden WMD. At the same time, America would assist in Iraq's reconstruction, building hospitals and schools rather than ornate, totalitarian palaces. The "transition from dictatorship to democracy" would take time President Bush warned his listeners, but the coalition was committed to staying until its work was done. When American troops finally withdrew, they would "leave behind a free Iraq."[23]

Even as the president spoke, American soldiers and Marines in Iraq were beginning an uncertain transition from conventional combat operations to occupation duty. With victory seemingly in hand, many Americans hoped that a new peace would settle across Iraq. However, for those on duty in most of southern and central Iraq's major cities, things were far from peaceful. Reprisals and lawlessness ruled the day, and establishing order, rebuilding the country, and completing the transition to democracy were tasks that seemed as though they might take far longer than anyone expected.

NOTES

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[5] Ibid.

[6] "Idaho Guardsman Falls in the Line of Duty," *On Guard*, May 2003, 4; and "Gregory L. Stone, Major, United States Air Force" at the official site of Arlington National Cemetery, http://www.arlingtoncemetery.net/gregory-stone.htm, passim.

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[16] Fontenot, Egen and Tohn, *On Point*, 252-53; and Rosenfeld and Gross, *Air National Guard at 60*, 52-54.

[17] Rosenfeld and Gross, *Air National Guard at 60*, 54.

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[19] DePue, *Patrolling Baghdad*, 27-34.

[20] Barton Gellman, "Frustrated, U.S. Arms Team to Leave Iraq," *Washington Post*, May 11, 2003, A1.

[21] Lt. Col. Thomas Rhatican, Commander, 1-147th Aviation, Wisconsin ARNG, interview by Maj. Annette M. Hoffman, 30th MHD, June 15, 2003, at BIAP Aviation Base, Baghdad, Iraq, 1-4.

[22] Lt. Col. Edward Gundersen, Commander, 142nd Military Intelligence Battalion, Utah ARNG, interview by Maj. Annette M. Hoffman, 30th MHD, August 15, 2003, at Base Camp, Iraq Study Group, Baghdad, Iraq, 1-5.

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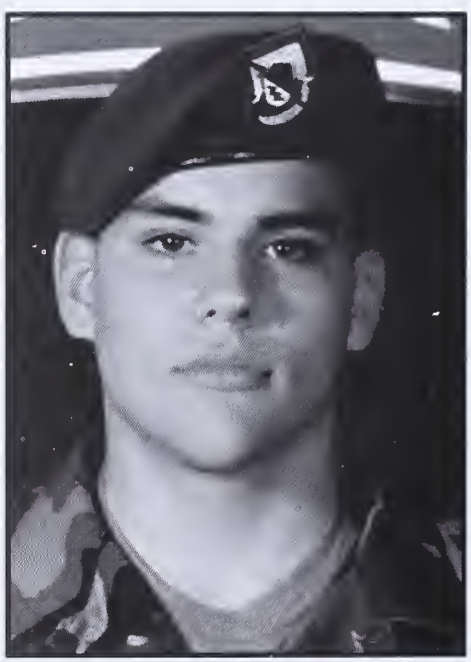
CHAPTER THREE

A NEW KIND OF WAR, MAY 2003-JANUARY 2004

For perhaps the first time since he had arrived in Baghdad, Spc. Jeffrey Wershow felt as though he could relax and let his guard down. On the morning of July 6, 2003, he had volunteered to be part of a security detail for a team of Army civil affairs officers who were to meet with members of the administration of Baghdad University. It was to be an easy mission, officers assured Wershow and the other security detail members, because the campus was believed secure. The small group drove from central Baghdad to the university in two civilian sport utility vehicles rather than Army Humvees. The meeting began on time, and so far, the day proved uneventful. The area around the administration building seemed safe, and after the gathering started, the soldiers removed their helmets and body armor against the rising heat of another sweltering summer day in Baghdad.[1]

For nearly two hours, the security detail relaxed while the conference continued. At one point, Jeffrey Wershow pulled out a cell phone and dialed his mother in Gainesville, Florida. She was not home, and he left a message, telling her "Hello" and that he loved her. Minutes later, he walked into a crowded student cafeteria nearby and bought a can of 7-Up. He strolled onto a shaded terrace, his rifle slung over his shoulder, to enjoy the drink in the relative cool of the shade.



Spc. Jeffery Wershow (FL NG)

As Jeffrey Wershow relaxed, he may have reflected on what he and his fellow Floridians from Company C, 1-124th Infantry had been through since the start of OIF. On the night of March 19, Company C had provided security for SF operators as they crossed the Iraq-Jordan border to begin operations in Iraq's western desert. For more than a month, the citizen-soldiers had guarded and transferred enemy PWs and provided security at a number of small SF compounds in the open desert. Coalition forces had soon captured Baghdad, and by May, rumors were flying thick that the Floridians were to return home. Instead, Company C was ordered to Baghdad where rampant lawlessness had broken out. Company C's mission was to guard the city's convention center, a building that housed the U.S. Consul's office and was the site of high profile media briefings and meetings between American and Iraqi civilian officials. Duty in the capital city proved stressful and dangerous in the face of escalating violence; the Floridians felt as though they could never let their guard down. "It was when we got to Baghdad that the close calls began," recalled Staff Sgt. Al Melendez of Orlando. "The desert wasn't our enemy. It was the big city."

As Jeffrey Wershow lingered on the shaded terrace, an unidentified figure suddenly approached from behind, brandished a pistol and shot the Guardsman in the back of the head execution style. In the confusion and chaos that immediately followed, the assassin slipped away, never to be found. The first medic to reach Wershow was another Guard member Spc. Kristine Ward, a 21-year-old airline employee in civilian life who was assigned to the 233rd MP

Company, a part of the QRF that had responded to the shooting. Specialist Ward had first encountered the National Guard during the Midwestern floods of 1993 when a detachment of Guardsmen arrived in her hometown of Timewell, Illinois, to construct a sandbag barrier against the rising waters. Kristine was only nine at the time, but she never forgot the scene and joined the Illinois Guard when she turned seventeen.[2]

Hovering over Jeffrey Wershow, Kristine Ward dove into her medical bag in an effort to save him. Working without medical gloves, Ward's hands were soon covered in blood as she worked to keep him alive. She bandaged the injury as best she could, but it was obvious that Wershow was mortally wounded. A physician finally arrived, checked her work and indicated that his chances of survival were nearly zero. A medevac helicopter soon landed nearby and lifted the young wounded warrior to a medical facility.[3]

Jeffrey Wershow died at a military hospital a few hours later, never regaining consciousness. The men of Company C were distressed at the senseless killing, especially of one who had so much to offer. He was the first combat fatality that Florida's 2-124th Infantry had suffered since World War II. On July 17, *USA Today*, the largest daily circulation paper in the United States, ran a front page feature on his service and tragic death in Iraq. Days later, Specialist Wershow was honored at a funeral service in Gainesville, Florida. Those at the memorial remembered the 22-year-old for his vibrant personality and devotion to duty. "Someone isn't dead until he's no longer remembered," a former principal said during a eulogy. "In that way, Jeffrey will live on for a very, very long time."

Jeffery Wershow was only the sixth National Guardsman to give their lives in OIF, but the senseless killing was indicative of a type of guerilla war breaking out throughout Iraq in the aftermath of the coalition invasion. What the American people did not know at the time was that Jeffrey Wershow's death would be followed by those of hundreds of other citizen-soldiers from across the nation as the war in Iraq became a violent insurgency targeted against coalition forces and the tens of thousands of ARNG members sent there to help win the war.

AN EXPANDING CONFLICT

The first to realize fully that a new kind of war was developing in Iraq were the troops on the ground. Among ARNG units, perhaps no one recognized this more than the 233rd MP Company. The Illinois unit was the QRF that had first responded to Jeffrey Wershow's killing, and that mission was only one of many difficult circumstances it had endured since arriving in Baghdad. The Illinois citizen-soldiers had witnessed firsthand an orgy of looting and violence that engulfed the Iraqi capital and then spread throughout most of the country. Violence flowed from groups determined to seize anything of value as payment for years of suffering under Saddam and to help them survive the anticipated lean times ahead. Other hostility came from families and tribes seeking to inflict revenge on others for previous perceived wrongdoings and gangs of hardened criminals who Saddam had released from prison in the months prior to the invasion. American troops were spread desperately thin and concentrated their activities on securing government buildings, palaces and critical infrastructure rather than quelling the looting and violence. Added to all of this was the reality that almost every Iraqi male had some type of weapon. The sound of gunfire in Baghdad was near constant, both from malicious acts and the social custom of celebrating special events by firing weapons into the air. Reflecting the anarchy that gripped Baghdad in late April and early May 2003, the MPs of the 233rd dubbed the city "cowboyland."[4]

After a few weeks, the orgy of spontaneous looting and violence subsided, replaced by more organized and serious threats. Amplified levels of violence and increasingly sophisticated tactics come from a number of groups. The most obvious

was hardliners from Saddam's regime, fanatic Baath Party loyalists who obstinately believed that as long as Saddam was still alive a chance for his return to power remained. Many of the loyalists had military experience or training they were willing to use in a fight against the perceived occupiers. With the vast caches of stored ordnance that existed throughout Iraq, unguarded due to a shortage of coalition troops, Saddam's loyalists had access to plenty of weapons and ammunition. Second, in the absence of authoritarian control, the deep social and religious divisions that splintered Iraqi society boiled to the surface. Shiites and Sunnis struggled against one another for social and religious control, and the coalition came to label the ensuing carnage as "sectarian violence." Radical religious leaders, warlords and their militias were a third source of organized resistance. Foremost among these was the Shiite cleric Muqtada al-Sadr, whose Mahdi Army posed a serious challenge to peace and stability. Well-funded and heavily armed, the Mahdi Army promoted the Shiite cause throughout central and southern Iraq. Al Qaeda itself posed a fourth serious threat. Enticed by the opportunity to expand a proclaimed jihad by striking back at American troops in Iraq, al Qaeda members and other foreign fighters flocked into the country. Al Qaeda operations brought with them fanaticism and sophistication in tactics; both were employed in increasingly damaging and violent strikes against coalition forces and uncooperative Iraqis. Over time, the leadership of al Qaeda in Iraq fell to the Jordanian terrorist Abu Musab al-Zarqawi.[5]

Citizen-soldiers from Oklahoma's Company B, 1st Battalion, 179th Infantry in an unarmored HMMWV near Tallil Air Base soon after the unit's arrival in April 2003. The lack of doors and any type of armored protection on the vehicle illustrates the unpreparedness of American forces for the violent uprising that soon followed. (Capt. Colby Wyatt)

The rising insurgency was reflected in the level of violence against U.S. troops. In June 2003, approximately 250 attacks occurred against coalition forces; the following month attacks nearly doubled to around 500. On July 16, 2003, General John Abizaid, who had seceded General Tommy Franks as the CENTCOM commander, announced at a press conference that coalition forces were up against "a classical guerilla-type campaign." The downing of a Chinook helicopter in November by a shoulder-fired surface-to-air missile that killed sixteen and wounded twenty American soldiers—the worst single-day loss of life since

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May 2003—was a striking example of the insurgency's increased capabilities and lethality. Still, American troops made some important gains. In late July, a task force of SF operators and troops from the 101st Airborne cornered and killed Saddam's two sons in Mosul.[6]

More than any other single event, a devastating attack on the U.N. compound in eastern Baghdad on August 19, 2003, demonstrated that a protracted conflict against a stubborn and organized enemy was unfolding. The massive explosion from a truck bomb demolished most of the U.N. compound and killed twenty-two personnel, including the U.N.'s chief envoy. The bombing forced the U.N. to leave Iraq and signaled to the entire world that a coordinated insurgency was capable of strategic strikes that could thwart the success of coalition forces in stabilizing the country as a prelude to ushering in a new, democratic government.[7]

Every war produces its own infamous and deadly weapons that inflict grievous casualties on American soldiers. In World War II, GIs feared the legendary German "88", a potent direct fire cannon. Grunts in Vietnam came upon the nasty "punji" stick, a sharpened piece of bamboo covered with feces that sliced through boots and uniforms to inflict infectious wounds. In Iraq, American soldiers encountered the deadly improvised explosive device (IED). IEDs were easy to manufacture and packed a tremendous punch from high explosives. Terrorists usually emplaced IEDs in camouflaged positions at roadside, detonated them by remote control and targeted them against coalition vehicles and convoys.

Insurgents first used IEDs in July 2003, and by the end of the year, the IED was their preferred weapon of choice. The actual explosives were often in the form of mortar and artillery shells taken from the numerous weapons caches that littered the countryside. Between April 2003 and November 2004, insurgents exploded an estimated 10,000 IEDs against coalition forces, causing over 4,500 casualties. The Iraqi population was not spared from IED attacks either. Al Qaeda made the decision to kill and maim civilians, especially those serving in police and security forces, as a means of turning public opinion against the war effort and thwarting democratic reforms. From September 2003 until January 2005, 1,300 Iraqi civilians were killed

By the summer of 2003, after the end of the major combat phase, the insurgency increased and the need to flush the enemy from strongholds intensified. Members of the 1st Battalion, 293rd Infantry from Indiana check houses near Tallil Air Base for insurgent fighters and weapons. (IN NG)

and another 4,300 wounded in IED attacks. Vehicle borne IEDs driven by suicide bombers proved effective against coalition checkpoints, public market places and civilian gatherings. RPGs, mortars and rocket attacks were also insurgent favorites, but IEDs remained the most pervasive and effective weapon against coalition forces.[8]

PREPARING FOR A LONG WAR

The months following the fall of Baghdad and well into 2004 were extremely challenging for the coalition effort, especially for the U.S. Army. A number of strategic assumptions that were accepted as gospel truth by many in the Bush administration at the start of OIF proved unfounded. Though large segments of Iraqi society had favored the overthrown of Saddam's regime, coalition forces were not greeted as liberators. The initial attacking forces had proven adequate for capturing the capital and defeating the Iraqi military but were stretched too thin to provide security in a country that appeared to be coming apart at the seams. Initial planning called for sharp reductions in troop strength from over 160,000 "boots on the ground" at the height of the invasion to less than 40,000 by December 2003. However, the outbreak of widespread, sustained violence made it clear that a large American troop presence would be required for an undetermined period.

During the late summer and fall of 2003, the Army organized for a lengthy occupation and the fight against insurgents and terrorists. Members of Indiana's 1st Battalion, 293rd Infantry display unit pride by mounting a sign outside their headquarters at Tallil Air Base. The insignia belongs to their parent unit, Indiana's 76th Infantry Brigade, which was not deployed to Iraq at the time. (IN NG)

The unstable situation resulted in a number of crucial political and military decisions that determined the course of the Iraq War for the next three years. The key political decision was the establishment of the Coalition Provisional Authority (CPA) under Ambassador L. Paul Bremer. War planning had assumed that once initial combat ceased, political power and civil authority would pass quickly from the coalition to a surviving remnant of the Iraqi government or to returning expatriates. However, the Iraqi governmental bureaucracy did not survive the shock of invasion, expatriates proved ineffective and social unrest and violence prevented the quick formation of a native, interim government. The only viable alternative was for the coalition to import its own ruling body, and the CPA was formed in early May 2003. On May 16, Ambassador Bremer ordered the "de-Baathification" of Iraqi society by removing from public office anyone who had held a prominent position in the Sunni-dominated Baath Party. Since many office holders, including teachers for instance, had to join the Baath Party as a condition of their employment, this decision rendered unemployed tens of thousands of mostly Sunni, middle-class Iraqis. A week later, the CPA disbanded the Iraqi Army, whose officer corps was again mostly Sunni, in an effort to emphasize the final end of Saddam's tyranny. Ambassador Bremer then announced the postponement of an early turnover of political power to an interim government in favor of a slower and more deliberate process. In the minds of many Iraqis, these three steps indicated that the liberators had become the occupiers. In a more practical sense, the decisions left Iraqi institutions without qualified leadership or

technical expertise, fostered widespread unemployment and created a large pool of disaffected Sunnis willing to support an insurgency.[9]

Massive reorganizations of the military command structure accompanied the altered political landscape. In the aftermath of the invasion, General Franks wanted CENTCOM's subordinate controlling headquarters out of Iraq as soon as possible so they could focus on other operations throughout the Middle East. Command in Iraq passed temporarily to V Corps headquarters. In June 2003 General Franks surprised many with the decision that V Corps would be redesignated as Combined Joint Task Force-7 (CJTF-7) under the command of Lt. Gen. Ricardo S. Sanchez. The problem was that V Corps was organized and staffed as an Army headquarters focused on tactical, ground operations rather than what was truly needed: a combined and joint headquarters adequately staffed for strategic, operational and tactical management. General Sanchez and his staff struggled mightily to accrue and organize the special expertise required to manage affairs in Iraq at a time when the country was literally exploding in their faces.[10]

Chart 3. Coalition Military Structure in Iraq, 2003-2006

Organization	Designation
Multi-National Force-Iraq	**MNF-I**
Multi-National Corps-Iraq	**MNC-I**
Multi-National Division-North	**MND-N**
Multi-National Division-North Central	**MND-NC**
Multi-National Division-Baghdad	**MND-B**
Multi-National Division-West	**MND-W**
Multi-National Division-Central South	**MND-CS**
Multi-National Division-Southeast	**MND-SE**

Source: *On Point II*, 28-29 and Appendix D.)

CJTF-7 moved as quickly as possible to organize the theater of war into specific subordinate commands based on multi-national divisions. By the fall of 2003, Iraq was divided into six major military sectors based largely on groupings of the country's nineteen established provinces. General Sanchez directed the multi-national divisions to focus on five tasks: military operations including battling insurgents and the training of Iraqi security forces; the reinstatement of local governance; economic development; restoration of infrastructure and essential services; and information operations. Final changes to the command structure came in the late spring and early summer of 2004. CJTF-7 was redesignated as Headquarters, Multi-National Force-Iraq (MNF-I) on May 15, 2004. Its mission was to provide strategic and operational-level command and planning for all coalition forces while working closely with the new U.S. Embassy and the budding interim Iraqi government. On July 1, 2004, General George W. Casey, Jr., assumed command of MNF-I. MNF-I's major subordinate headquarters was the Multi-National Corps-Iraq (MNC-I) which had responsibility for planning and conducting military operations throughout the country.[11]

As operational commanders completed the headquarters arrangements for the long-term prosecution of the Iraq War, logisticians built up the supply and services infrastructure. The backbone of the logistical system became a series of LSAs often centered on abandoned Iraqi military air bases or warehouse facilities. A primary supply point in northern Iraq became LSA Anaconda at Balad Air Base, run by the 1st Corps Support Command to provide theater logistics support. BIAP remained a central ingress and egress point for troops, equipment and supplies. At the tactical level, units developed networks of FOBs that served as secure platforms not only for tactical operations but for logistics and sustainment as well. The most extensive and secure logistics facilities remained in Kuwait, and a common site on the improved roads that traversed central Iraq were long truck convoys that ferried troops and equipment from Kuwait northward to the main battle areas.

The reliable C-130 played an essential role in providing logistical and troop support throughout Iraq during the initial invasion and the heavy fighting that followed. ANG C-130 squadrons maintained a constant presence in Iraq throughout the war. (DVIC)

One of the National Guard's most important contributions to logistics management and transportation was theater-wide airlift provided by the rugged and reliable C-130. Whenever coalition ground troops occupied usable air bases throughout Iraq, C-130s were always among the first aircraft to arrive. Thirteen of the ANG's twenty-five C-130 squadrons served during the first six months of OIF, airlifting 22,000 tons of cargo and 47,000 passengers while flying 8,600 sorties and accruing 21,000 flight hours. For the most part, ground troops enjoyed occasional rides on C-130s. Free from the menace of IEDs during cross-country movement, troops felt secure flying on C-130s. In addition, the C-130 could climb to altitudes beyond the range of shoulder-fired ground-to-air missiles that threatened coalition helicopters. Cooler temperatures at higher altitude provided ground troops a temporary respite from unbearable heat at ground level. On the other hand, long waits during taxi and takeoff exposed troops to stifling heat inside the aircraft, and the evasive maneuvers C-130 pilots employed to avoid groundfire during takeoff and landing often induced airsickness among passengers.[12]

CALL OUT THE GUARD!

The intense summer heat in Iraq had begun to moderate slightly by early September 2003, but a sudden order from CJTF-7 caused the blood of every citizen-soldier and airman serving there to boil. On September 8, a surprise letter from General Sanchez reached most National Guard units on duty in Iraq, and its contents reflected the serious, escalating nature of the conflict. Guardsmen learned to their dismay that they would not be going home anytime soon. Instead of being called to active duty for 365 days as their mobilization orders specified, Guard units were to serve 365 days boots on the ground in Iraq before returning home. For citizen-soldiers, General Sanchez became the most unpopular person in Iraq, and paper copies of the edict were burned, taped on dartboards and stuffed down latrines. Their anger mounted even more when Guardsmen saw active duty units preparing to return home. Even though the Regulars had been in Kuwait for a much longer period before the war's start, Guardsmen nonetheless felt that active duty troops should not be sent home ahead of them. Still, citizen-soldiers realized they had a job to do and that their frustration and anger only detracted from their capacity to get the job done and return home safely in one piece.[13]

The Sanchez letter kicked up another storm of anger and frustration at home. Wives, sweethearts and parents reacted with anger, disgust and disillusionment when they learned the military had extended the combat tours of their loved ones. Any hopes that the troops would be home by Christmas were suddenly dashed. The state adjutants general (TAG) and unit stay-behind personnel received the brunt of family frustrations. Family Support Groups (FSG) were networks of military personnel, dependents and family members joined together to provide information, moral support and material aid to those with Guard personnel mobilized. They helped greatly in providing comfort and clarifying information during challenging times. Still, many

Guard families felt powerless in the face of the Sanchez letter. Others exercised their right to freedom of speech by firing off letters, e-mails and phone calls to state governors and members of Congress.[14]

In the autumn of 2003, a second command decision had much more serious consequences for the entire ARNG. The first group of units that had toppled Saddam's regime and initially occupied the country were to be replaced by a second troop rotation designated as OIF II. Tours of duty for OIF II and subsequent troop rotations were to last a year or more. ARNG participation in the initial invasion had numbered nearly 30,000; OIF II called for a second wave of Guard units numbering nearly 40,000. Of even greater significance, OIF II was to include three ARNG combat brigades: the 81st from Washington; the 39th from Arkansas; and the 30th from North Carolina. Units were to mobilize during late 2003 and early 2004 and arrive in Iraq in the spring of 2004.[15]

The call-up for OIF II further magnified a major challenge for the National Guard and the states that had started with the 9/11 attacks. Perhaps more than any other previous conflict, the war on terrorism induced an environment of multiple, concurrent missions. The TAGs faced the challenge of balancing homeland security needs, support to expeditionary warfare, and normal training and mission requirements on a daily basis. At any one time, state missions included the protection of a myriad of key assets, planning with other state and local agencies for homeland security missions, the mobilization and demobilization of units going to and from Afghanistan and Iraq, the continuation of routine training for units not deployed, responses to natural disasters and support to law enforcement. OIF II set into motion circumstances in which the states simultaneously had units preparing to deploy to OIF, others serving in Iraq, and yet others returning from overseas duty.

Preparation for OIF II introduced a number of mobilization procedures that became pervasive nationwide. During previous national emergencies, selected Guard units had been ordered to active service, remaining on active duty until the crisis passed or until the Army and the Air Force no longer needed them. The unit rotation policy established for the Iraq War meant that units would be ordered to active duty for a specific time period and then released from service, but once again subject to recall. As a result of this practice, a type of rolling mobilization cascaded through the Guard.

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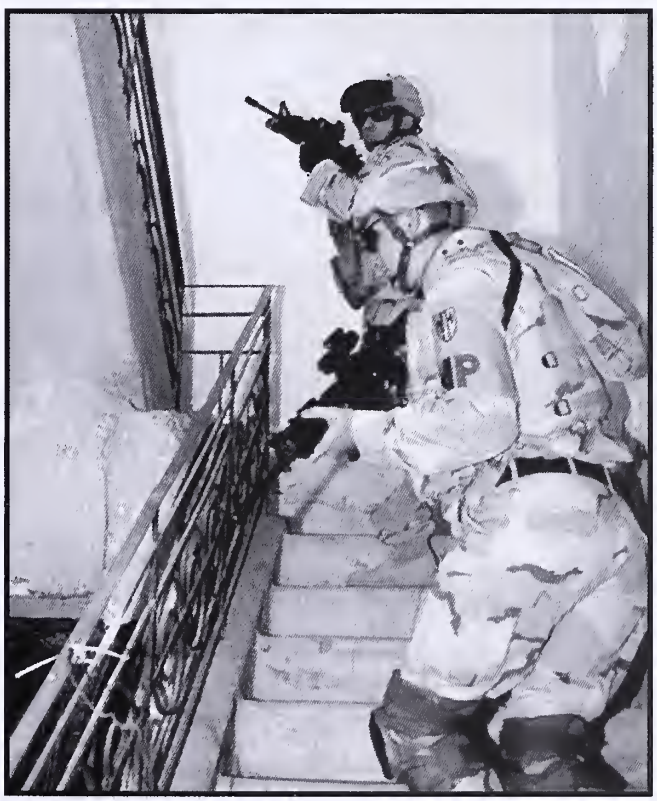

Military police units experienced heavy usage throughout the Iraq War. Personnel from the 940th MP Company, Kentucky ARNG, search a building while on patrol in Al Hillah, Iraq. (DVIC)

This was especially true among those types of units—MP, engineer and transportation—that were in high demand but in short supply, a reality that all but guaranteed multiple tours of duty for them. As a whole, ARNG units prepared for a 12-month tour of duty in Iraq, while Air Guard individuals served under the volunteerism concept in which members met the Air Force's needs during tours that lasted only weeks or months.

Multiple and repeated mobilizations created severe challenges in the management of personnel and equipment. Some states decided to man mobilized units entirely from within, while others welcomed the assignment of additional personnel from other states. For the first time in ARNG history, widespread unit integrity was not maintained during mobilization as parts of units, sometimes even individuals, were called up to fill out other deploying units. As a result, OIF saw a great interstate migration of ARNG personnel assigned to deploying units for the duration of overseas tours. Before long, almost every unit in the ARNG had personnel mobilized for OIF, even though a much smaller percentage of units actually served overseas. In the rush to meet the country's needs, the National Guard surrendered its traditional demand that entire units be ordered to active duty and acquiesced in the mobilization of portions of commands, including subordinate units, small detachments and even single individuals.

The churning of personnel paled in comparison to the wholesale cross-leveling of equipment among units and across state lines. In the past, the Guard had staunchly maintained that equipping the force was a federal responsibility, but during OIF the National Guard took unprecedented steps to reallocate existing equipment to units headed overseas. At the same time, the Army poured tremendous resources into those same units to ensure they received adequate levels of the most modern equipment. Still, many governors and TAGs felt uneasy about the lack of critical equipment in some of their units, especially vehicles and aircraft. Given the possibility of terrorist attacks at home and the continuing need for the Guard to respond to natural disasters, unexpected emergencies and other state missions, those units remaining stateside became less manned and equipped than was normally the case.

The mobilization of OIF II units continued apace during late 2003 and early 2004. The mobilization of the 39th Infantry Brigade reflected the experiences of the other two combat brigades and multiple support units ordered to active duty. On October 12, 2003, Arkansas's 39th Brigade became the second Guard brigade to be called up. Under the command of Brig. Gen. Ronald Chastain, it numbered approximately 3,000 Arkansas soldiers serving in eight units, including three battalions of the 153rd Infantry and the 1st Battalion, 206th Field Artillery. To bring the total number of troops to an authorized strength of about 4,500 soldiers, units from nine additional states were assigned. Foremost among these was the 2nd Battalion, 162nd Infantry consisting of 700 personnel from Oregon. Eight other states contributed more than 500 additional Guard soldiers.[16]

All the Arkansas troops spent two or three days at home station packing gear and preparing to leave for their mobilization station at Camp Joseph T. Robinson in North Little Rock. While at Camp Robinson, all personnel completed their in-processing tasks, from updating wills and other financial matters, to medical screening which included the giving of a DNA sample as well as receiving required vaccinations. A small number of soldiers were found ineligible for deployment due to health concerns and were replaced by in-state volunteers, so the units retained their full strength. Every soldier's equipment was checked and items found unserviceable replaced. Body armor was also issued. There was a shortage of some weapons, such as the new M-4 carbine, so many troops kept their M-16s, which the Army replaced prior to deployment.

As units completed their processing, they flew to Fort Hood, Texas, their federal mobilization station, while their heavy equipment moved there by rail. The last Arkansas unit arrived at Fort Hood on November 1. Units from other states

initially reported to their respective state mobilization sites, and once certified ready, joined the brigade at Fort Hood. The entire assembled 39th Brigade held its first formation there on November 3. For the next three months, the troops maintained a rigorous training schedule. For starters, they undertook refresher courses on common soldier tasks, such as first aid, map orientation and weapons qualification. In many cases they trained on new weapons such as the M-4. In addition, all soldiers were taught the advanced Combat Lifesaver Course, imparting to them lifesaving skills well beyond basic first aid. Since their mission in Iraq was expected to be primarily force protection, all soldiers learned how to operate machine guns and other crew served weapons, even if that was not normally part of their military specialty. Once individual training was completed, units began conducting extensive exercises in close quarters combat, convoy protection, route clearance and urban operations. An important aspect of training was learning the skills required to detect and thwart IEDs.

By early February 2004, the 39th had completed its training at Fort Hood and moved to the Joint Readiness Training Center (JRTC) at Fort Polk, Louisiana. There, Guardsman took part in a monthlong series of wargames and training tests of what they had learned in Texas. After taking a two-week leave, the citizen-soldiers reassembled at Fort Hood and began deployment to Camp New York in Kuwait where they linked up with their vehicles which had already been shipped by sea. Once ready, each unit then moved to Camp Cooke, north of Baghdad. The first unit to arrive at Camp Cooke was the 1-206th Field Artillery on March 21, 2004; the last of the brigade's units arrived in Iraq on April 16.

THE KIRKUK SEVEN

One of the coalition's main objectives was to round up the cast of characters at the highest levels of Saddam's regime, including the Iraqi president himself. After the fall of Baghdad, SF troops, intelligence operatives and conventional forces scoured Iraq in their search for Saddam and his lieutenants aided by sophisticated intelligence gathering platforms. To increase general awareness of those being sought, the coalition produced a unique deck of playing cards that portrayed the top fifty-two members of the former regime. Saddam Hussein himself held the highest position in the deck, the ace of spades. It was not the first time the military had used a deck of cards as a training aid to improve troop awareness. In previous wars, decks of cards had portrayed arrays of enemy vehicles and aircraft, but the OIF deck of cards was the first to depict the personages of the enemy's hierarchy.

In the end, a vital element of the actionable intelligence that helped lead to the capture of Saddam Hussein came from neither SF operators and conventional forces nor high technology platforms, but from seven Air Guard nurses. The seven were assigned to Pennsylvania's 193rd

The "Kirkuk Seven" from Pennsylvania's 193rd Special Operations Wing played an unexpected but vital role in the capture of Saddam Hussein. The seven nurses are shown during an awards ceremony following their return home holding a display of the Ace of Spades playing card that served as a wanted poster for the Iraqi president. (193rd Special Operations Wing)

Special Operations Wing and volunteered for a 120-day tour of duty in Iraq in late 2003. By November 2003, the group—Maj. LaDawn Straub, Maj. Julie Carpenter, Master Sgt. Crystale Matthews, Master Sgt. Belinda Defoor, Staff Sgt. Terri Hall, Staff Sgt. Beth Shapiro, and Senior Airman Georgia Powell—was on duty with the 506th Expeditionary Medical Support (EMEDS) unit at the coalition medical facility in Kirkuk. Their mission was to provide care to anyone arriving at the clinic, including wounded coalition troops and injured civilians.[17]

One night in early November, a medevac flight arrived at Kirkuk with two Iraqi civilians who had been severely injured in a collision with a military vehicle. Such injuries were not uncommon, and the nurses worked diligently to receive and care for the patients. Their sense of urgency spiked when the Pennsylvanians realized one of the patients had sustained life-threatening injuries, including a crushing chest wound and a torn artery. The nurses knew that the patients' lives were in their hands; local doctors refused to treat the severely injured, fearing reprisals in the event patients died under their care. Despite primitive conditions at the facility and an occasional in-coming mortar shell that prompted some caregivers to seek cover in a nearby bunker, the Air Guard nurses stayed on duty. Finally, the crisis passed, and the injured were stabilized and evacuated to another facility. The dedication the Air Guard nurses displayed throughout the incident caught the attention of Col. Ryan Goetz, the 506th EMEDS commander.

Their commander was not the only one who noticed the nurses' outstanding care and dedication. In following days, the families of those whose lives had been saved came to the facility to thank the nurses. The expressions of thanks eventually took on an unusual and significant form when family members provided information regarding the hiding places of Saddam Hussein. The intelligence seemed credible and was sent up the chain of command. This information was combined with other data that produced actionable intelligence. On December 13, 2003, a patrol from the 4th Infantry Division found Saddam Hussein huddled sheepishly in a spider hole hiding place near Tikrit. The elusive "Ace of Spades" was finally captured and in coalition hands.

When the nurses returned home to Pennsylvania, they received public recognition for the significant, unintended role they had played in Saddam's capture. The "Kirkuk Seven" were honored at the Pennsylvania capitol by Governor Edward G. Rendell, receiving state commendation medals and certificates of achievement from the 506th EMEDS. In contrast, Saddam Hussein's life took a direr turn of events. He was soon placed on trial for crimes against his fellow countrymen, found guilty, and sentenced to death.

In the months following the capture of Baghdad, National Guard units serving in Iraq performed important support roles, including security, transportation and logistics. As an organized insurgency developed, citizen-soldiers and airmen were exposed to increased danger; forty-three National Guard members had died in OIF by the end of 2003. The need for coalition forces to counter insurgents with brute force had become evident by early 2004. As a result, the ARNG would soon take on a more direct combat role, becoming one of the principal coalition fighting forces in Iraq.[18]

NOTES

[1] Andrea Stone and Deborah Sharp, "A Young, Gung-Ho Soldier is Slain in Iraq: How he Lived, How he Died; When Spc. Wershow was Killed by a Gunman in Baghdad on July 6, his Buddies Figured it Could Happen to Them, too. 'You can never truly relax,' says one," *USA Today*, July 17, 2003, A01; and Master Sgt. Bob Haskell, Army New Service, "One Year Into OIF, Guard Remembers Those who Sacrificed All," March 30, 2004, 1. All information on Jeffery Wershow is from the cited sources unless otherwise noted.

[2] DePue, *Patrolling Baghdad*, 89-90.

[3] Ibid.

[4] DePue, *Patrolling Baghdad*, 38-39.

[5] Dr. Donald P. Wright and Col. Timothy R. Reese with the Contemporary Operations Study Team, *On Point II: Transition to the New Campaign, The United States Army in Operation Iraqi Freedom*, May 2003-January 2005 (Fort Leavenworth, KS: Combat Studies Institute Press, 2008), 32-36.

[6] Ibid.

[7] Ibid.

[8] Wright and Reese, *On Point II*, 111-12.

[9] Wright and Reese, *On Point II*, 25-27.

[10] Wright and Reese, *On Point II*, 27-31, 42.

[11] Ibid.

[12] Rosenfeld and Gross, *Air National Guard at 60*, 54.

[13]Headquarters, CJTF-7, "OIF Rotation and Mobilization Policy," memorandum, September 8, 2003.

[14] DePue, *Patrolling Baghdad*, 126-28.

[15] NGB, Annual Review, 2003, 199; and John J. McGrath, *Boots on the Ground: Troop Density in Contingency Operations* (Fort Leavenworth, KS: Combat Studies Institute, 2006), 113-15.

[16] Arkansas National Guard, "39th Brigade Combat Team, Operation Iraqi Freedom II Mobilization, October 2003-April 2005," n.d., 1-2; and Arkansas National Guard, "39th Infantry Brigade Combat Team: Overall History," n.d., 1-4. All information on the mobilization of the 39th Brigade is from the cited sources unless otherwise noted.

[17] Senior Airman Jay Ostrich, "Guard Medics Credited With Helping Capture 'Ace of Spades'," SG Newswire, June 24, 2004, 1-2.

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CHAPTER FOUR

THE GUARD CARRIES THE LOAD, 2004-2006

Events in early 2004 foreshadowed a bloody, sustained insurgency that would eventually engulf coalition forces in Iraq for years. On March 31, 2004, insurgents killed four American civilian defense contractors in Fallujah, mutilating their bodies and hanging them from the support beams of a bridge. In an era of mass communications, the horrific image was broadcast worldwide. The CPA ordered I MEF to gain control of Fallujah and bring the killers to justice, but Iraqi political consternation over the Marine offensive and the uncertain performance of newly formed Iraqi Army units resulted in the suspension of the attack not long after it started.

Muqtada al-Sadr's Mahdi Army of Shiite militiamen was another source of concern in early 2004. By the end of March, al-Sadr's extreme rhetoric and adamant opposition to political reforms forced the CPA to take action. Ambassador Bremer ordered al-Sadr's inflammatory newspaper shut down, and on April 5, declared al-Sadr an outlaw. The cleric's reaction was to unleash the Mahdi Army on coalition forces. Violence erupted in Sadr City, the Shiite slum section of Baghdad, and in other Shiite dominated towns, especially Najaf and Karbala. Emboldened and perhaps even threatened by the Mahdi Army's resistance, Sunni insurgents became more aggressive and organized within the Sunni Triangle, an area north and west of Baghdad and centered on Saddam Hussein's hometown of Tikrit. Fallujah became a fortified sanctuary, as did Ar Ramadi and Samarra further to the west. At the same time, al Qaeda strikes became more numerous and deadly. By August 2004, the number of attacks from all sources against coalition troops and Iraqi security forces had surged to more than 2,500, making it the most violent month since June 2003. Widespread, determined resistance threatened the future of Iraq, and to prevent the country from being torn asunder, a sustained and significant military response was necessary.

A dismounted patrol of Guardsmen from Arkansas' 39th Infantry Brigade conducts a security sweep along a road in Iraq in May 2004. (Capt. Christopher Heathscott)

ARNG COMBAT BRIGADES ENTER THE FIGHT

Citizen-soldiers from Company B, 1st Battalion, 185th Armor of the 81st Brigade, Washington ARNG face a tense moment while on patrol in Iraq in August 2004. (DVIC)

The U.S. Army faced a dual challenge in the first months of 2004: quell increasing violence across Iraq while conducting perhaps the largest transfer ever of major fighting units while still engaged in combat operations. Starting in late 2003, CJTF-7 had begun the deployment of new OIF II forces while sending home those units that had been in Kuwait and Iraq since early 2003. ARNG units in OIF I had performed security and support roles for the most part, but OIF II included three ARNG combat brigades responsible for affairs within their own designated sectors, including taking on insurgents in direct combat. For the ARNG, OIF II included 230 units of all types for a total of just over 29,000 citizen-soldiers, but the most visible part of the deployment was the three combat brigades. OIF rotations during 2004-2006 included even more ARNG combat brigades.

Why did the Army turn to the ARNG for so many combat troops during the early years of OIF? The simple answer is the Army needed them. At first, National Guard leaders feared the mobilization of the 30th, 39th and 81st Brigades might become a repeat of the call-up of three ARNG Roundout brigades more than a decade earlier during the Persian Gulf War. The Army's reticence in mobilizing the Roundout brigades and its refusal to send them overseas in 1991 had prompted many in the ARNG to question the Army's genuine commitment to the Total Force Policy. In reality, adequate ground forces had been deployed to Saudi Arabia in 1990 to defeat Saddam's army in Kuwait without the Roundout brigades, but the handling of the mobilized brigades had clouded Army-ARNG relations throughout the 1990s.

But the developing situation in Iraq was completely different. Threatened by a rising insurgency, and stretched by its commitments in

Unit	State	Arrival Date	Release Date
30th Sep Inf Bde	NC	February 2004	December 2004
39th Sep Inf Bde	AR	March 2004	March 2005
81st Sep Inf Bde	WA	April 2004	March 2005
256th BCT	LA	October 2004	October 2005
278th RCT	TN	November 2004	November 2005
116th BCT	ID	December 2004	November 2005
155th BCT	MS	January 2005	January 2006
42nd Infantry Division	NY	February 2005	November 2005
29th BCT	HI	March 2005	March 2006
48th BCT	GA	May 2005	May 2006
2nd BCT, 28th ID	PA	July 2005	June 2006
56th BCT, 36th ID	TX	July 2005	July 2006
1st BCT, 34th ID	MN	March 2006	July 2007
36th AVN Bde	TX	June 2006	June 2007

Chart 4. ARNG Major Combat Units in OIF, 2004-2006

Afghanistan and elsewhere, the Army genuinely needed the additional combat power ARNG brigades offered. In stark contrast to events from a decade earlier, the 30th, 39th and 81st Brigades moved to their mobilization sites without delay, completed the necessary modernization and training regimes, and promptly deployed to the combat zone.

Another pervasive need prompted the Army to deploy Guard brigades. The Army was in the early stages of implementing a keystone of defense transformation, the restructuring of its combat and support units to modular formations to increase their fighting capacity and deployability. Modularity called for self-contained, standard organizations that commanders could plug and unplug from combat formations with minimal augmentation or reorganization. At the heart of modularity was the shift from the combat division to the brigade combat team (BCT)—stand-alone, self-sufficient, and standardized fighting units of 3,500-4,000 troops—as the Army's largest combat maneuver unit. Efficiencies from modular conversions were to increase the number of combat brigades, thus enabling the Army's extended schedule of projected division and brigade rotations to Iraq.[1]

However, time constraints severely challenged the Army's force conversions. The 3rd Infantry and 101st Airborne divisions were selected for the initial conversions, which were to be completed before they returned to Iraq in 2005. However, the Army needed additional combat power to fill the interim period and to sustain unexpectedly high levels of combat troops in response to the dangerous and dire circumstances on the ground in Iraq. The deployment of ARNG combat brigades bought the Army valuable time to convert its force structure to a modular design and provided sufficient forces to defeat the challenging array of opponents in Iraq. The first three ARNG combat brigades sent to Iraq went there under an older force design. Over time, the ARNG converted to BCTs as well, and starting in late 2004, all ARNG brigades serving in Iraq did so as modular units.

The deployment of thirteen brigades to Iraq during 2004-2006 represented the greatest commitment of ARNG citizen-soldiers to combat since World War II.

The deployment of thirteen brigades to Iraq during 2004-2006 represented the greatest commitment of ARNG citizen-soldiers to combat since World War II. Guardsmen performed a full spectrum of operations from defeating insurgents to promoting civic action. After completing their mobilization training and being certified for overseas duty, the brigades usually served in Iraq under the control of an active duty division assigned to one of the regional sectors established by MNF-I. The deployment of New York's 42nd Infantry Division headquarters represented a major watershed in the ARNG's participation. Support units served as well, providing a wide range of logistical and administrative services. At all levels, integration between Regulars and citizen-soldiers was seamless. Guardsmen also worked with Iraqi military and police forces to increase security, assist in reconstruction efforts, and help the Iraqi people establish new institutions of governance. One of the major outcomes of the period was that the Army Guard impressed upon the American people that citizen-soldiers could fight and that the ARNG remained the Army's primary combat reserve.

It is beyond the scope of the present work to provide a look at every brigade that served in Iraq, let alone each and every separate company and battalion. What follows is a representative look at the Guard units that served at each level of command, from company to division. Their service reflected the multifaceted missions that units performed, the battle prowess that Guard men and women alike displayed, and the many interactions that citizen-soldiers had with Iraqi civilians and military and police forces while trying to bring peace and democracy to the country.

Staff Sgt. Thompson, a member of Arkansas' 39th BCT, exchanges greetings with an Iraqi Army captain. One of the most important roles Guardsmen played in the war was training and working with Iraqi military and security forces. (AR NG)

RAVEN 42

One of the most renowned small unit engagements of OIF was fought by the Kentucky ARNG's 617th MP Company on Palm Sunday, March 20, 2005. The small unit leader most responsible for the successful outcome of the battle was 35-year-old Staff Sgt. Timothy F. Nein. A native of Clark County, Indiana, just north of Louisville, Kentucky, Sergeant Nein was already an experienced veteran. He had joined the Kentucky Guard's 223rd MP Company in 1996 and completed two deployments: a peacekeeping mission to Bosnia in 2001 and duty in Kuwait and Iraq during February-November 2003 as part of the OIF invasion force. In November 2004 he volunteered to return to Iraq for a second tour, transferring to the 617th from Richmond, Kentucky, which became part of the OIF III rotation.[2]

From the very beginning of the 617th's deployment, the company commander, Capt. Todd Lindner, enforced strict discipline and tough, realistic training. When the Kentuckians learned that route security and convoy escort were to be their designated missions in Iraq, they focused training exclusively on those tasks. Lindner insisted that his MPs not cut corners in their preparations or training exercises. A strict adherence to standards regarding pre-combat inspections, cleanliness and maintenance of weapons and vehicles, and the wear of body armor, helmets, and eye and hearing protection prepared the citizen-soldiers for combat. Once in Iraq, Sergeant Nein demanded the same standards from his own squad. He standardized the load plans for the squad's three up-armored HMMWVs and insisted on weapons cross-training for all personnel, especially on the squad's heavy weapons that included the MK-19 grenade launcher and the M-240 and M-2 .50-caliber machine guns. Using a dry erase board, Sergeant Nein ran his men and women through a series of rehearsals on actions upon enemy contact, including the specific steps each would take to hasten convoys through kill zones and to counter insurgent ambushes.[3]

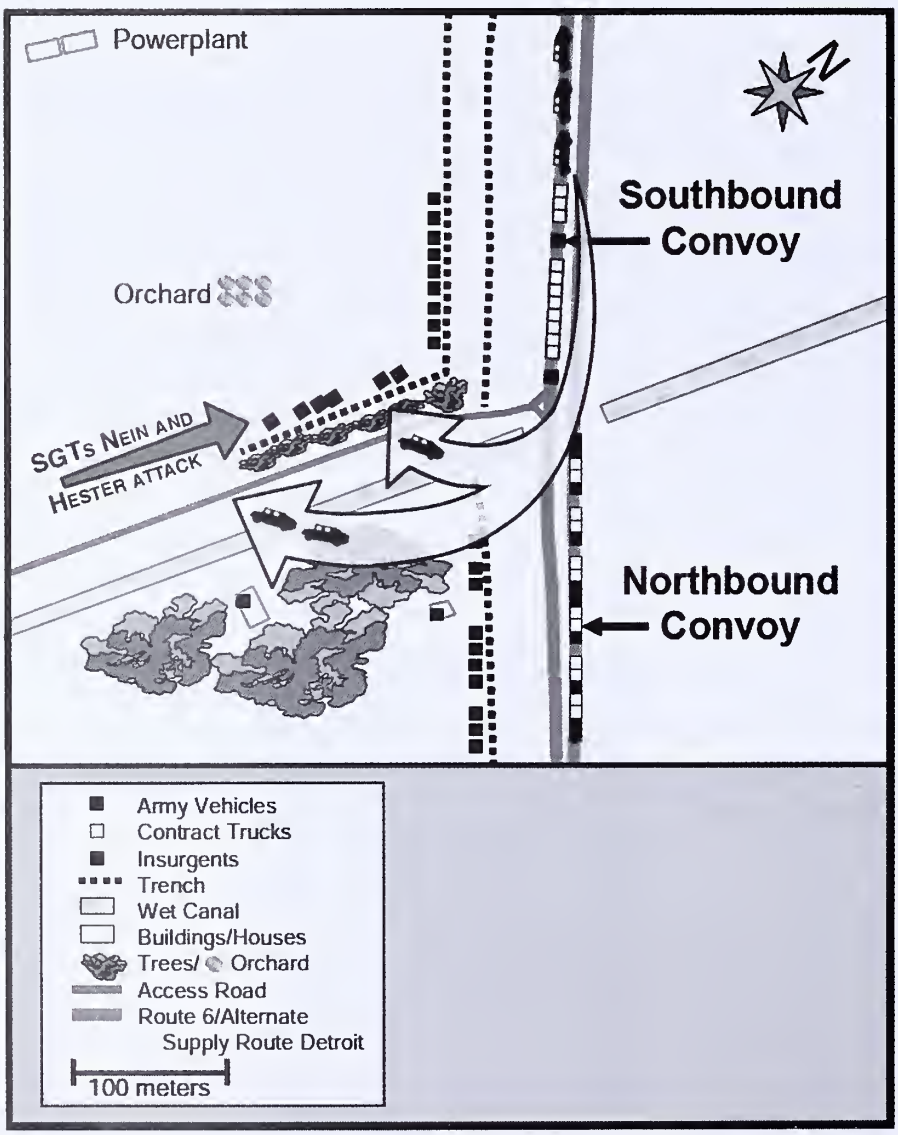
On the morning of March 20, Sergeant Nein's squad—radio call sign "Raven 42"—was assigned to patrol the most dangerous section of Route Detroit. Mounted in three up-armored Humvees, the squad searched for insurgents and IEDs at suspected ambush sites. If a convoy appeared, Raven 42 was to either escort or shadow it until the vehicles passed into another unit's area of responsibility. At around 10:30 a.m., a large 30-truck convoy with its own armed escort appeared moving south on Detroit. Sergeant Nein contacted the escort by radio and told them that his squad would follow behind as the convoy transited the 617th's sector. After a short refueling stop, the convoy resumed its progress southward. Minutes later, Sergeant Nein noticed that vehicles toward

Staff Sgt. Timothy F. Nein (KY NG)

the front of the convoy started moving erratically to the left and right and suspected that they had either been hit by an IED or small arms fire.

What Sergeant Nein did not know at the time was that as many as fifty insurgents had managed to unleash a near-perfect ambush. (See Map 2.) A second long convoy of trucks was moving north along Detroit at the time. By chance, the heads of the two convoys passed one another very near the intersection of Detroit and the access road that ran westward from the main route. Hoping to inflict maximum damage and create the greatest confusion, the insurgents sprang their trap just as the two convoys met. An IED exploded at roadside, causing a bus in the southbound convoy to careen into the median and flip onto its side. Insurgents then opened fire with AK-47s, RPGs and machine guns. The lead escort vehicles for both convoys returned fire, notified others of the ambush, and sped ahead in an effort to move the convoys out of the kill zone. However, the heavy insurgent gunfire created damage and confusion that caused both columns to grind to a halt.

What Sergeant Nein had witnessed from the rear of the southbound column was the initial reactions to the insurgent attack. The MPs believed that their best response to an ambush was to place their up-armored Humvees and heavy weapons between the insurgents and the vehicles under attack as the best means of moving the convoy through and beyond the enemy's kill zone. The 617th had practiced the reaction drill many times, and Sergeant Nein's immediate response to the ambush was instinctive: attack! He ordered his driver to cross the median of the divided highway, and the rest of Raven 42 followed. The second Humvee carried Sgt. Leigh Ann Hester and two other citizen-soldiers and was armed with a MK-19 and a M-240. The third vehicle carried a .50-caliber machine gun and four MPs, including the unit medic, Spc. Jason Mike. Raven 42 sped south down the open, parallel lane as the crescendo of gunfire between the insurgents and American troops grew louder.



Map 2. The Palm Sunday Ambush, March 20, 2005

Knowing the lay of the land, Sergeant Nein led his squad through the main intersection and down the western access road. All three vehicles were taking heavy fire, and by the time Sergeant Nein's Humvee came to a stop about 250 meters down the road, both front tires were flat,

a bullet had penetrated the engine block, and oil had splattered all over the hood and windshield. At this point, he observed seven automobiles parked close together in an open field nearby with all of their doors and trunks open, a favorite enemy tactic that allowed insurgents to mount up quickly and speed away before they could be stopped. The seven cars indicated as many as thirty insurgents were present, and Sergeant Nein realized for the first time that Raven 42 might be outnumbered as much as 3-to-1.

Sergeant Hester's HMMWV had followed right behind the lead vehicle. Sergeants Nein and Hester jumped out of their vehicles to fire upon insurgents located in an open field north of the access road while their heavy weapons opened up as well. The third Humvee had stopped short near the main intersection to take up an excellent firing position that allowed the .50-caliber gunner to place flanking fire on a group of insurgents occupying a trench that stretched along the shoulder of Detroit. Moments later, Raven 42 realized it was in deep trouble when another group of insurgents hiding south of the access road opened fire and wounded several squad members. Instead of rocking the insurgents back on their heels, the MP squad was now surrounded and outnumbered.

Sgt. Leigh Ann Hester of Kentucky's 617th MP Company stands at the site of the Palm Sunday ambush on March 20, 2005. Only moments after the end of the engagement for which she received the Silver Star, Sergeant Hester displays enemy weapons and gear captured during the fighting. (KY NG)

Sergeant Nein made it back to his Humvee and called for air support. Realizing the likelihood that the entire squad might be killed or captured, he paused to consider the destruction of sensitive items and equipment. Instead, Sergeant Nein decided to mount an aggressive counterattack as the best means of ensuring his squad's survival. "We need to go on the super offensive," he thought at the time. "We need to charge these guys." Calling to the other MPs nearby to follow him, Nein ran to the top of a berm alongside the access road and down into a trench on the opposite side. Sergeant Hester followed close behind as Sgt. Dustin Morris climbed to the top of the berm to provide covering fire.

Sergeants Nein and Hester attacked the enemy head-on. In the wild melee that followed, the two moved down the trenchline in the direction of Detroit firing their weapons and throwing grenades as they advanced. They attacked in alternating bounds, with one providing covering fire as the other tossed grenades or reloaded. By this time, additional Humvees with MK-19s, M-240s and M-2s had converged on the main intersection and were smothering the insurgents with concentrated fire. Nein and Hester continued lobbing grenades and firing until they reached the trenchline near the main intersection when the shooting suddenly stopped. Forty-five minutes after the ambush had started, the fight was finally done.

A survey of the ambush site immediately afterwards revealed the intensity of the fight. The trenches and field north of the access road were littered with enemy killed and wounded. Twenty-four insurgents were dead, their bodies scattered throughout the area. Nine others were wounded and captured, and one was captured unharmed. The seven getaway vehicles were completely demolished by American gunfire. Over thirty automatic weapons, multiple RPGs, thousands of rounds of ammunition, and forty hand grenades blanketed the area. The MPs determined that another fifteen insurgents

Leigh Ann Hester became the first female soldier since World War II to receive the Silver Star and the first woman ever to receive it for close combat.

had attacked the convoys and battled Raven 42 from positions south of the access road, but they had managed to make a clean getaway. All together, as many as fifty heavily armed insurgents had unleashed the Palm Sunday ambush, one of the largest single attacks against a coalition convoy in all of OIF.

For their actions during the fight, Sergeant Nein, Sergeant Hester and Specialist Mike received the Silver Star, the nation's third highest medal for valor. Spc. Ashley Pullen, who had ridden into battle in Sgt Hester's Humvee and played an important role in the engagement, was awarded the Bronze Star with V-device for valor. Leigh Ann Hester became the first female soldier since World War II to receive the Silver Star and the first woman ever to receive it for close combat. Sergeant Hester dismissed her gender distinction in receiving the battle award, saying, "It really doesn't have anything to do with being female." Further review of Sergeant Nein's actions resulted in the Army upgrading his Silver Star to the Distinguished Service Cross, the nation's second highest award for valor. Lt. Gen. H Steven Blum, the Chief, NGB, presented the Distinguished Service Cross to Sergeant Nein at the National Guard Association of Kentucky's annual conference in Lexington in February 2007. That same month, the U.S. Army Women's Museum at Fort Lee, Virginia, unveiled a life-size diorama featuring Sergeant Hester's role in the Palm Sunday ambush. Most of the members of Raven 42 were present for the unveiling ceremony. Leigh Ann Hester was characteristically humble during the event. "It wasn't one person's actions that day," she observed. "It was us as a team…I wouldn't be standing here today without these guys having had my back that day."[4]

THE OREGON VOLUNTEERS

The American citizen-soldier has always adapted on the battlefield. Sometimes they adjust their tactics and techniques to counter or outwit the enemy, while at other times they act to lessen the effects of poor decisions and unfortunate circumstances produced by those far removed from the terrifying world of the combat soldier. The deployment and service of Oregon's 2nd Battalion, 162nd Infantry as part of OIF II reflects the adaptability, survivability and determination of American citizen-soldiers.

Mobilized in the late summer of 2003, most of the battalion hailed from armories scattered throughout the verdant Willamette Valley and down the Oregon coast to Coos Bay, with its headquarters in Cottage Grove. Commanded by Lt. Col. Dan Hendrickson, a Guard veteran of ten years, the 2-162nd was known as "The Volunteers." The battalion had felt slighted when its two sister battalions had previously been selected to participate in a Sinai peacekeeping mission and for combat duty in Iraq. Their active duty orders eventually specified that the 2-162nd was headed for Iraq as a part of Arkansas' 39th Brigade which was attached to the 1st Cavalry Division. Heavy combat in Iraq was expected. It was not the first time that Oregonians from the 2-162nd Infantry were to battle insurgents in close combat on urbanized terrain. Their forebears had fought guerillas during the bloody Philippine Insurrection and had helped to liberate the Philippines from the Japanese in the closing months of World War II.

In late October 2003, the 2-162nd moved from Oregon to its federal mobilization station at Fort Hood. There citizen-soldiers had to adapt quickly to make up for the deplorable living conditions that awaited them. The battalion moved into barracks vacated by the 4th Infantry Division which was already serving in the Sunni Triangle. The buildings had been slated for demolition and replacement with new barracks. However, the massive influx of Guardsmen and Reservists at Fort Hood for OIF II compelled the Army to use

the decrepit barracks despite their unsatisfactory condition. Broken windows, overflowing toilets filled with feces and garbage, rotting food and mildew-covered walls greeted the Oregonians in their new barracks. Winter was coming on and the buildings lacked hot water and heat.[5]

When red tape and a convoluted command structure frustrated the cleanup and repair efforts of the battalion's leaders, the troops decided to fend for themselves. Using their own money, the Oregonians bought cleaning supplies, mopped out the barracks, boarded up broken windows, and scrubbed away the mold. Guardsmen with civilian experience as plumbers and electricians examined the barracks' utility systems and made repairs. Help eventually arrived from the 39th Brigade and Fort Hood, but not before the Oregonians had made the barracks livable through their own efforts. The experience taught the Volunteers to fend for themselves, to improvise, and to bypass bureaucratic roadblocks, all good preparation for challenges they would encounter in Kuwait and Iraq.[6]

The 2-162nd was light infantry, trained to fight on foot in any type of terrain or weather. The war in Iraq negated the need for light infantry in favor of motorized troops. In Iraq's many cities and towns, light infantry lacked the mobility, firepower and communications gear that battling insurgents on urbanized terrain required. The Army's answer was to mount its infantry in HMMWVs, and the Oregonians first adapted to the tactics and techniques of motorized infantry while training at Fort Hood. The HMMWV was to carry five combatants—driver, vehicle commander, gunner and two dismounts—so the Oregonians reconfigured their nine-man infantry squads into three and four-man teams for each vehicle. They spread their squad automatic weapons (SAW) and grenade launchers throughout the assigned vehicles and established procedures for 360-degree security while on the move and at halts.[7]

The up-armored HMMWV with its three- or four-man crew became the backbone of the Army's fighting force in Iraq. Lt. Col. David Russell from Pennsylvania painted a number of watercolors of Guard troops serving in Iraq, such as these members of Company A, 112th Infantry from the Pennsylvania Guard assigned to the 42nd Infantry Division in 2005. (NGB)

Despite a shortage of available vehicles and time, the Volunteers trained and adapted as best they could. With little to guide them in terms of established doctrine for motorized infantry operations, they relied heavily on lessons learned from units in combat in Iraq. Reaction drills to IED attacks were an integral part of training. Should an IED disable a vehicle, other Humvees were to evacuate the immediate area and lay down a base of protective fire while dismounts moved to evacuate casualties from the stricken vehicle. At other times, they practiced rushing through suspected kill zones in an effort to evade deadly IEDs.[8]

Just after the 2-162nd arrived in Kuwait in March 2004, the greatest need for adaptation and ingenuity short of combat presented itself. Only days before they were to leave Camp New York and advance into Iraq, the Volunteers received their assigned HMMWVs. The Oregonians stared in disbelief at the vehicles' decrepit and battered condition. Most were retreads that had been ridden hard by other units, repaired to some degree, and issued to the Guardsmen. Others had been hit by IEDs and partially refurbished. Even worse, they were a crazy, hybrid collection of M998s, one of the earliest variants of the HMMWV, which lacked any type of armored protection with open rear decks and canvas cabs.

Furthermore, the old Humvees were configured much differently from the vehicles on which the Oregonians had trained in the states. Luckily, the 2-162nd did receive a few of the new up-armored M1114 HMMWVs that possessed ballistic glass, armored plating, air conditioning and a gun turret. Lt. Col. Hendrickson complained to the 39th Brigade commander that the situation was unacceptable. However, the response was clear and unequivocal: either drive to war in the dilapidated Humvees or walk into Iraq.[9]

With combat only days away, and resigned to the notion that no one else would take responsibility for their safety and protection, the infantrymen went to work. They scoured Camp New York for anything that might shield them from enemy weapons. Scrounged plywood and scrap armor plating lashed and bolted to Humvees formed crew compartments and provided nominal protection against IEDs and gunfire. Citizen-soldiers lined the floors of HMMWVs with sandbags and jammed other sandbags between vertical, parallel sheets of plywood. However, the added weight was too much for the vehicles' suspensions and had to be removed. The Oregonians ripped apart pieces of surplus body armor and hung them on doors along with other scrap pieces of Kevlar. The improvisations and hodgepodge of protective materials made the 2-162nd's convoys resemble gypsy caravans. The infantrymen called each vehicle a "Jed Clampett" after the decrepit family truck featured in the popular 1960s television comedy "The Beverly Hillbillies."[10]

On April 4, 2004, the 2-162nd streamed out of Kuwait heading north to their new duty station at Camp Cooke in Taji, just north of Baghdad. In only a matter of hours, they drove from the safety of Camp New York into the very teeth of the Mahdi Army's popular uprising that spring. As they approached Baghdad, the Oregonians encountered veteran soldiers from the 4th Infantry Division. Their beaten and battered Humvees andthe dusty, grim faces of tank and infantry fighting vehicle crews warned of the fighting that lay just ahead. In Baghdad, all hell broke loose. The battalion's various convoys were in succession rocked by IEDs, flayed by RPG volleys, and sprayed with machine gun and rifle fire. Still, the infantrymen endured their baptism of fire with discipline and determination while learning they could dish out punishment even greater than what they received.[11]

An infantry squad from the 2nd BCT, 28th Infantry Division, along with Iraqi soldiers, looks for insurgents in a palm grove near Ramadi on June 2, 2004. (Cpl. Richard A. Hilario)

Once established in Baghdad, the 2-162nd operated in the Rusafa and Adhamiyah districts, populous areas of the capital that included 1.8 million inhabitants. The need for adaptation was even greater once the Oregonians were operating among the Iraqi people. They called urban operations a "three-block war": in one city block there was the fight against insurgents, in another the need for infrastructure construction and repairs, and in the third the promotion of fair governance with local neighborhood councils. Killing insurgents and restoring order were preconditions for other projects that improved the Iraqis' lives. The Oregonians managed to collect over forty public garbage trucks which the drivers had taken home to haul refuse only for families that paid them bribes. Under the Guardsmen's eyes, public garbage routes were restored and trash hauled only to established dumping sites.[12]

Like most ground forces in Iraq, when the Volunteers went into battle, they usually fought as smaller, subordinate units rather than complete

companies or as a battalion. During the battle of Najaf in August 2004, platoons from Companies A and B reinforced a battalion of the 1st Cavalry Division during intense urban combat against the Mahdi Army. The Americans devised the tactic of taking control of the tallest buildings as the best way of dominating and observing the surrounding urban terrain and defeating the thousands of insurgents in the city. At the height of the battle, the Oregonians and a detachment of Marines took control of the tallest building in Najaf, the six-story Hilton hotel in downtown that became known as the "Apache Hilton." From their dominant perch, the Oregonians pummeled their enemies with sniper and automatic weapons fire, indirect fire, and huge doses of close air support that helped to convince Muqtada al-Sadr to call off further operations in Najaf.[13]

While on a search mission in Taji, Spc. Jason Farr of Company B, 1st Battalion, 115th Infantry from Gaithersburg, Maryland, peers into a house with his weapon at the ready. A joint American and Iraqi sweep of the area netted twenty-seven detainees and a large number of weapons. Company B was assigned to the 48th BCT. (MD NG)

The Volunteers returned home to Oregon in late March 2005 after a year in Iraq. Of the nearly 700 who served, eight were killed and thirty others wounded. Throughout their mobilization and deployment, the 2-162nd Infantry displayed the flexibility, ingenuity and willingness to adapt that is often the hallmark of the American citizen-soldier. Intelligent adaptation allowed them to learn new tactics, to devise the best methods for increasing their survivability and to adjust to the foreign, challenging conditions they often faced in Iraq. "It was an absolute honor to serve with all of these men of such great caliber," Lt. Col. Hendrickson said shortly after returning from overseas. "They brought nothing but great honor on our unit, our state and our country, and that's not an easy thing to do in the harsh conditions and unforgiving environment they served in."[14]

THE OLD HICKORY BRIGADE

North Carolina's 30th Brigade, nicknamed "Old Hickory," was alerted for mobilization on July 27, 2003, the first Guard brigade called up for OIF. Its units mobilized at their home armories on October 1, 2003. The 30th was selected to be among the first Guard brigades to deploy because only weeks earlier it had completed a very successful rotation at the Army's National Training Center at Fort Irwin, California, one of the Army's most challenging training sites.[15]

Under the command of Brig. Gen. Danny H. Hickman, the Old Hickory Brigade was primarily composed of North Carolina units: the 1st Battalion, 120th Infantry; 1st Battalion, 252nd Armor; 1st Battalion, 113th Field Artillery; and the 105th Engineer Battalion (Combat). In all, the Tar Heel State contributed about 3,700 personnel of the 5,000 required to bring the brigade up to full strength. To meet this total, units from eight additional states were assigned to the 30th for its tour. Among these were the 2nd Battalion, 108th Infantry, a light infantry battalion from New York, and the 1st Battalion, 150th Armor from West Virginia. Unlike several other Guard brigades which came to include one Regular Army battalion during their deployment, the 30th was an all-Guard organization.[16]

Following the completion of initial activities at home, units moved to their federal mobilization station at Fort Stewart, Georgia. Once they arrived, the troops began intensive training in

urban combat, convoy escort duty, and base security. They received classes in how to identify and counter IEDs. Some of this training, conducted by Army Reserve personnel who had never seen combat, was dated and proved to be of little value in Iraq. Guardsmen were especially frustrated by the fact that 3rd Division veterans who had just returned from Iraq with knowledge of the latest combat tactics and techniques were immediately available on Fort Stewart but took no part in training them. While the majority of the soldiers continued their training, selected members of the brigade's leadership flew to Germany to take part in a major command post exercise with the 1st Infantry Division which would serve as their controlling headquarters.[17]

Bradley fighting vehicles from Louisiana's Company C, 2nd Battalion, 156th Infantry, referred to as the "Blacksheep," patrol a street in Hor al Bosh in 2005. The unit was an element of the 256th BCT. (Capt. Sean Flynn)

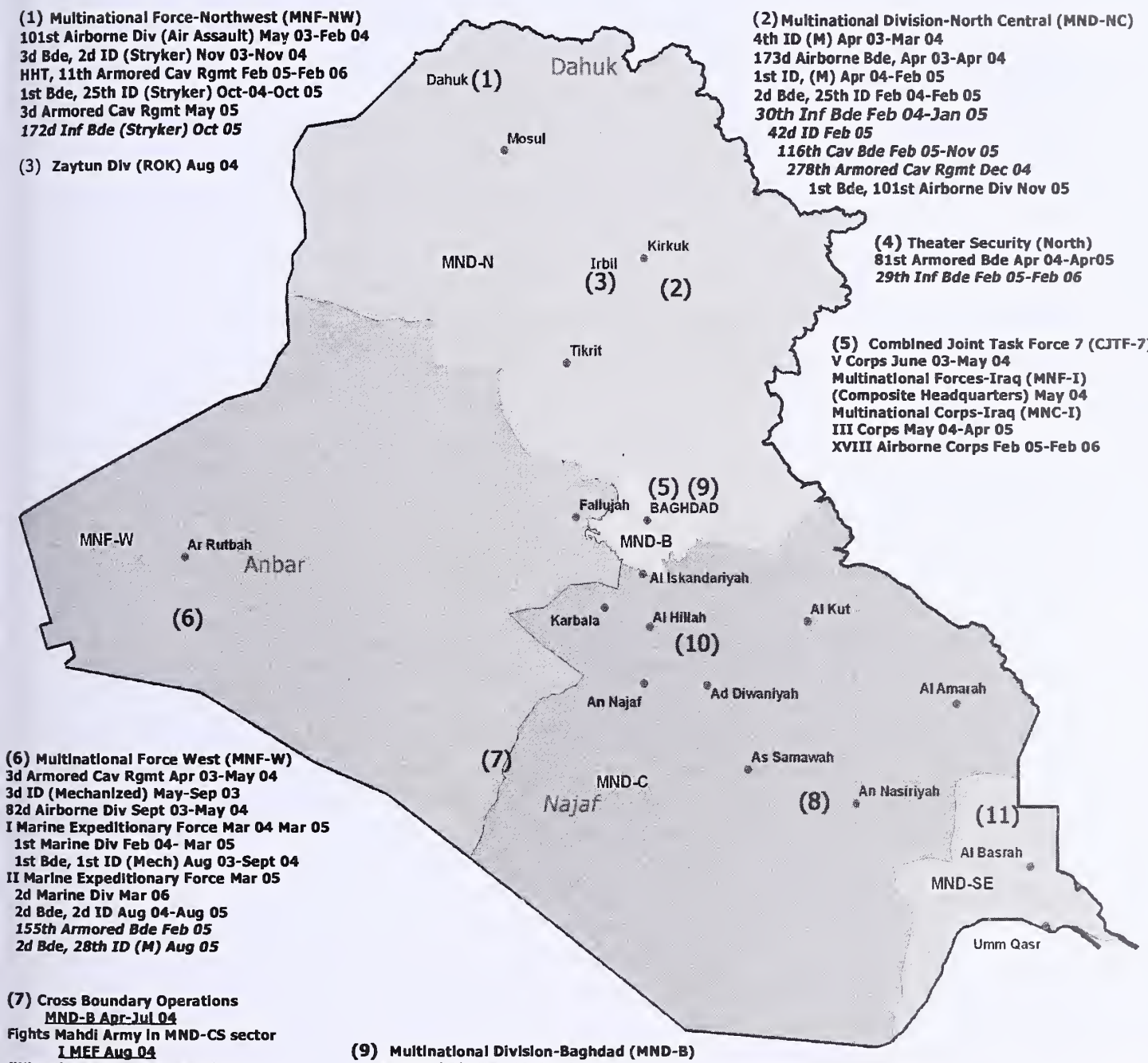
The Old Hickory Brigade was a mechanized unit, and while soldiers focused on training, their heavy weapons and equipment were loaded on ships for the long voyage to Kuwait. In the harsh and dangerous environment that awaited them, the eighty-two M-2 Bradley fighting vehicles of the 1-120th Infantry would provide invaluable protection and firepower. Other heavy combat vehicles taken to Iraq included over one hundred Vietnam-era M-113 armored personnel carriers. The 105th Engineers used M-113s for the removal of captured arms and ammunition. Others were employed as armored ambulances or assigned to the headquarters sections of infantry line companies. In addition, Battery A, 1-113th Field Artillery, deployed with six M-109A6 self-propelled Paladin howitzers. Most of the brigade's vehicles were Humvees; some were new and up-armored but the troops had to strengthen the majority of the vehicles after they arrived in Kuwait.[18]

Last-minute changes during major deployments are unavoidable, but on the eve of its departure, the 30th Brigade suddenly learned of major adjustments in its organization, assigned sector, and missions. Just prior to deployment, the 2-108th Infantry was reassigned to the 1st Division's 2nd BCT and would play no role with the 30th in Iraq. Its approximately 700 personnel were not replaced by another unit, so the Old Hickory Brigade deployed with only about 4,300 soldiers, not the 5,000 originally planned. The brigade was originally assigned to an area around Tikrit, and the brigade and battalion staffs had done all of their planning for that sector. In January 2004, less than a month before deployment, the brigade was notified that its sector was changed to eastern Diyala Province to a zone nearly the size of Delaware that shared a 150-mile border with Iran. The reassignment cost the brigade staff over two months in valuable planning time, yet the citizen-soldiers managed to overcome the disadvantage. The transfer to Diyala Province meant that the brigade's assigned missions changed from force and convoy protection to the full spectrum of combat operations, including the aggressive search and destruction of enemy combatants. In addition, the 30th would expend much of its time and resources helping the Iraqi people to repair infrastructure and to establish new, democratic political and legal systems. To support these last efforts, the brigade received Company B, 451st Civil Affairs Battalion from Texas as well as military intelligence and psychological operations detachments.[19]

The first elements of the 30th began staging into Camp Caldwell in eastern Diyala Province from Kuwait in early March 2004. (See Map 3.)

Map 3. Coalition Forces in Iraq, April 2003-February 2006

NOTE: Reserve Components units are listed in italics



(1) Multinational Force-Northwest (MNF-NW)
101st Airborne Div (Air Assault) May 03-Feb 04
3d Bde, 2d ID (Stryker) Nov 03-Nov 04
HHT, 11th Armored Cav Rgmt Feb 05-Feb 06
1st Bde, 25th ID (Stryker) Oct-04-Oct 05
3d Armored Cav Rgmt May 05
172d Inf Bde (Stryker) Oct 05

(3) Zaytun Div (ROK) Aug 04

(2) Multinational Division-North Central (MND-NC)
4th ID (M) Apr 03-Mar 04
173d Airborne Bde, Apr 03-Apr 04
1st ID, (M) Apr 04-Feb 05
2d Bde, 25th ID Feb 04-Feb 05
30th Inf Bde Feb 04-Jan 05
42d ID Feb 05
116th Cav Bde Feb 05-Nov 05
278th Armored Cav Rgmt Dec 04
1st Bde, 101st Airborne Div Nov 05

(4) Theater Security (North)
81st Armored Bde Apr 04-Apr05
29th Inf Bde Feb 05-Feb 06

(5) Combined Joint Task Force 7 (CJTF-7)
V Corps June 03-May 04
Multinational Forces-Iraq (MNF-I)
(Composite Headquarters) May 04
Multinational Corps-Iraq (MNC-I)
III Corps May 04-Apr 05
XVIII Airborne Corps Feb 05-Feb 06

(6) Multinational Force West (MNF-W)
3d Armored Cav Rgmt Apr 03-May 04
3d ID (Mechanized) May-Sep 03
82d Airborne Div Sept 03-May 04
I Marine Expeditionary Force Mar 04 Mar 05
1st Marine Div Feb 04- Mar 05
1st Bde, 1st ID (Mech) Aug 03-Sept 04
II Marine Expeditionary Force Mar 05
2d Marine Div Mar 06
2d Bde, 2d ID Aug 04-Aug 05
155th Armored Bde Feb 05
2d Bde, 28th ID (M) Aug 05

(7) Cross Boundary Operations
MND-B Apr-Jul 04
Fights Mahdi Army in MND-CS sector
I MEF Aug 04
(With elements of 1st Cav Div)
Fights Mahdi Army in Najaf in MND-CS sector and "Triangle of Death"
MND-B 04-05
Operates in "Triangle of Death" area south of Baghdad in Babil Province

(8) Theater Security (South)
197th FA Bde Feb 04-Feb 05
56th Cav Bde, 36th ID (M) Feb 05-Feb 06

(9) Multinational Division-Baghdad (MND-B)
1st Armored Div May 03-Apr 04
2d Cav Rgmt (Light) May 03-May 04
2d Bde, 82d Airborne Div Apr 03-Apr 04
1st Cav Div Apr 04-Feb 05
2d Bde, 10th Mountain Div Apr 04-Feb 05
39th Inf Bde Mar 04-Mar 05
256th Inf Bde (Mech) Oct 04-Oct 05
2d Bde, 82d Airborne Div Dec 04-Apr 06
3d ID (Mech) Feb 05
3d Bde, 1st Armored Div Feb 05
48th Inf Bde (Mech) Jun 05

(10) Multinational Division-Central South (MND-CS)
12th (PO) Mech Div Sep 03-Jan 04
16th (PO) Pomeranian Mech Div Jan 04-Jul 05
1st (PO) Warsaw Mech Div Jul 04-Jan 05
11th (PO) Lubusz Armored Cav Div Jan 05-Jul 05

(11) Multinational Division-Southeast (MND-SE)
3d Armored Div (UK) July 03-Apr 04
(composite UK Div Staff since Apr 04)

Like many ARNG units, the 30th Brigade suffered its first combat death during movement northward from Kuwait. Spc. Jocelyn Carrasquillo of the 1-120th Infantry was killed by a roadside bomb on March 13. Ten days later, the brigade began running operations. Along with the 30th's headquarters, several other elements of the brigade maintained their billets at Caldwell while conducting missions away from the base, often for days. Among these were the 105th Engineers and Battery G, 2-202th Air Defense Artillery from Illinois. However, given the vast size of the territory to be patrolled, most brigade citizen-soldiers were assigned to several different FOBs throughout the sector. FOB Cobra was the primary station for the 1-150th Armor, along with elements of the 1-120th Infantry and 1-252nd Armor. Other elements of the 120th Infantry and 150th Armor served at FOB Roughrider while most of a company from the 120th was based at FOB Bernstein. The wide dispersal of the 120th was due to it being the only unit equipped with Bradleys.[20]

Most of the FOBs had been established in the weeks just prior to the 30th's arrival and had few comforts available. To help make them more livable, teams from the 105th Engineer Battalion and 230th Forward Support Battalion worked on improvements to the austere living conditions. For instance, at FOB Caldwell the 105th expanded existing water and sewage systems and constructed entirely new ones to assure adequate, clean water. Running new electrical lines was another urgent task. As the heat of the summer months approached it became a command priority that as many soldiers as possible have air conditioning in their sleeping quarters. At FOB Cobra, a water purification section from the 230th connected to an existing well to generate filtered, clean water for the base for the first time.[21]

The brigade's routine missions usually included search and destroy missions for insurgents while at the same time promoting as much peaceful interaction with the Iraqi people as events allowed. From each FOB, on a 24-hour basis, patrols would head into the local towns, villages and countryside actually making themselves a target to draw enemy fire so they could then overwhelm the enemy with firepower. Some days little or no contact was made, and the missions ran smoothly, but this was not always the case.

In the early morning hours of June 25, three Bradleys from 3rd Platoon, Company A, 1-120th Infantry were returning to FOB Warhorse from a patrol through the city of Baqubah. Just before leaving the urban area, insurgents ambushed the Americans with rifles, RPGs and machine guns. Suffering no serious injuries, the platoon made it to a safe zone, though all three vehicles had taken several direct RPG hits. After reporting the attack, they received orders to reengage the enemy and pin them in place to allow a QRF to advance and destroy them.[22]

As the fight resumed, 1st Platoon, Company A, 1-120th Infantry (also at Warhorse) went to the 3rd's assistance. Within fifteen minutes its five Bradleys, all loaded inside and out with infantrymen, moved into the fight. Meanwhile, enemy fire was so intense that all three turrets of the 3rd Platoon's Bradleys were damaged, and their guns could not traverse to fire. At the same time, insurgents started dropping hand grenades on top of the vehicles from building overhangs along the narrow streets. The platoon leader decided to get out of the kill zone and return to Warhorse for repair and rearmament so his troops could return to the action.

Just as the 3rd Platoon was departing at about 6:00 a.m., the 1st Platoon arrived to take up the fight. The infantrymen charged into an area fortified by the insurgents that provided some protection from the Bradley's fearsome 25-mm. guns. After just a couple of minutes of intense combat, Capt. Christopher Cash, the Company A commander, was mortally wounded when an explosion damaged the turret of his M-2.

The remaining four Bradleys from the 1st Platoon kept up a steady rate of fire at any target they could identify. As more enemy fighters joined in the battle, an increased number of RPGs hit the M-2s. One struck Track A-13, severely wounding Spc. Daniel Desens and causing less

serious wounds to several other soldiers. Sgt. 1st Class Chad Stephens, also of 1st Platoon, ran without body armor or a weapon from the relative safety of his vehicle to aid those in A-13. As he pulled Desens out of the Bradley, a car filled with insurgents suddenly appeared and opened fire, but they were quickly killed by other platoon members. Stephens loaded Desens into Track A-14, where a medic rendered first aid. Sergeant Stephens then aided others until all the wounded were loaded into the same Bradley that took them to the rear for medical treatment. For his bravery under fire and the receipt of wounds while risking his life to save other members of his platoon, Sergeant Stephens was awarded the Silver Star, the only soldier in the 30th to be so honored.[23]

Sgt 1st Class Chad Stephens from North Carolina's 1st Battalion, 120th Infantry, 30th BCT earned the Silver Star for saving the lives of other soldiers during a firefight in 2004. (NC NG)

The three remaining Bradleys of 1st Platoon, soon reinforced by other forces, continued the fight. They maneuvered aggressively and used maximum firepower, including air strikes that dropped 500-lb. bombs. The insurgents finally broke contact about dawn. Besides two soldiers killed, five others were wounded. Approximately 30-40 insurgents were killed and many more wounded. Not one Bradley engaged was knocked out of action, though several had their turrets badly damaged. Company A's after action review of the fight observed: "It had to be disheartening to the enemy to see that Bradleys could not be stopped, no matter the punishment inflected upon them."

In addition to actual combat, brigade units conducted extensive security missions. Starting in June 2004, West Virginia's 1-150th Armor, under the designation TF Mountaineer, entered into full partnership with local Iraqi police, the Southern Diyala Border Police and the Iraqi National Guard's 206th Infantry battalion to help secure the area around FOB Cobra and toward the Iranian border. By establishing a sense of trust with the local population, the West Virginians were often successful in locating arms caches and IED production houses and in capturing insurgents. Among their successes was the apprehension of the Turki brothers, wanted as leaders of an al Qaeda cell operating in the area. The 150th conducted 3,452 patrols; over half of them were joint missions with Iraqi security forces. These operations resulted in the discovery and destruction of eighty-nine weapons and ammunition caches, the detention of 440 illegal border crossers from Iran, and the killing or capturing of seventy-six insurgents. Since the entire battalion was only equipped with Humvee's, many of them unarmored or having only improvised protection, it suffered the highest casualty rate of any battalion in the brigade. By the end of their tour, forty-two members had been wounded, almost all by IEDs. On July 27, 2004, Sgt. DeForest Talbert was killed in an IED attack during a patrol with the Iraqi Guard, the only member of the 150th to die in Iraq.[24]

It was not unusual for ARNG units to form supportive relationships with local institutions, especially schools and orphanages. There were moments when helping the local population had great rewards for the soldiers. One such case took place on November 2, 2004, when members of the 30th delivered school supplies to school children near FOB Caldwell. Youngsters from two local tribes received pens, pencils, paper, book bags and other supplies donated by church and school groups of the soldiers' families from back home.[25]

And not all aid was so basic. Working through its Company B, 451st Civil Affairs Battalion, the Old Hickory Brigade coordinated with local government agencies and outside contractors to

spend more than $5.7 million on security, education and civil works projects. Some cost small amounts but helped to improve greatly the lives of the people. For instance, Battery B, 1-113th Field Artillery worked with local contractors to gather sufficient funds to hire about one hundred Iraqi laborers for 75 days to dig an irrigation canal, bringing water into fields long abandoned due to lack of water. In all, 393 improvement projects such as repairing schools, hospitals and other public structures were started during the brigade's tour, with many finished before the troops returned home.[26]

By December 2004, the dispersed elements of the brigade were staging back to Camp Caldwell to prepare for their return home. Once most of the troops were together, a memorial service for the six brigade soldiers who died was held with General Hickman presiding. Then came the ceremony everyone had been waiting for: on Christmas Eve 2004, the transfer of authority occurred between the Old Hickory Brigade and its replacement, Tennessee's 278th Regimental Combat Team (RCT). Soon after the ceremony, the troops of the 30th began their journey home, leaving behind almost all of their vehicles and most of their equipment for the incoming unit. While the soldiers missed the winter holidays with their families, they were home by early 2005, and all were released from active duty in February. In all, the 30th Brigade deployed about 4,300 personnel, losing six members killed and about eighty wounded, one of the lowest casualty rates of any Guard brigade deployed during 2004-2006.[27]

THE RAINBOW DIVISION: NEVER FORGET!

The ARNG achieved an important milestone in early 2005 when its 42nd Infantry Division deployed to northern Iraq. The deployment was especially significant because it marked the first full commitment of an Army Guard division to combat since the Korean War. As part of OIF III, the division assumed responsibility for coalition efforts in the MND-NC sector. However, it was not the first time the New York-based division had been in battle. During the mobilization for World War I, the 42nd was formed from citizen-soldiers from twenty-six states and the District of Columbia. Col. Douglas MacArthur, the division chief of staff at the time, observed that because the troops came from so many places that the division "stretches like a rainbow" from one end of America to another. Guardsmen and reporters alike warmed to the phrase and the division nickname was born: The Rainbow Division. Citizen-soldier doughboys went on to fight valiantly in the trenches of World War I. The 42nd fought in Europe as a draftee division during World War II, and after the war, it was reconstituted in the New York National Guard.

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Headquartered in Troy, New York, elements of the 42nd Division had already participated extensively in the global war on terror prior to the OIF III deployment. On September 11, 2001, combat and support units assigned to the division with citizen-soldiers living in New York City reacted immediately to the terrorist attacks on the World Trade Center. Those arriving at the horrendous scene assisted civilian first responders in rescue and recovery efforts while others beefed up security all across the city. In the weeks that followed, the 42nd Division was responsible for Operation Trade Center, an extensive logistical and administrative effort that supported cleanup efforts at the World Trade Center site. At the same time, other division troops were posted

temporarily at New York's major commercial airports and other points of key infrastructure to increase protection until more permanent security arrangements were enacted. As the war on terror expanded, so did the 42nd Division's participation. Rainbow Division troops served in Afghanistan and one battalion deployed to Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, for security duty at the terrorist detention facility established there. Hundreds of division troops deployed to Iraq as part of OIF II. The attacks on the World Trade Center and subsequent deployments had made an indelible impression upon the Rainbow Division's members. For the impending deployment to Iraq, they adopted a unique motto: Never Forget![28]

Starting in May 2004, approximately 3,000 assigned citizen-soldiers from six northeastern states and Florida began to mobilize. They formed the foundation for Task Force Liberty, the command, control and support element for the balance of the division which came to include active duty, Guard and Army Reserve members. The majority of the division's permanently assigned personnel underwent mobilization training at Fort Drum, New York, and Fort Dix, New Jersey. Two other ARNG combat brigades—Tennessee's 278th RCT and Idaho's 116th BCT—mobilized as subordinate units to the 42nd. Once training was fully underway, the division had troops at five different stateside installations: Forts Drum, Dix, Hood, and Bliss, and at Camp Shelby, Mississippi.[29]

During past wartime mobilizations, Guardsmen had often felt slighted due to receiving insufficient amounts of modern weapons and equipment. The exact opposite was the case during the 42nd Division's mobilization. Troops received fresh desert combat uniforms, boots, body armor and Kevlar helmets. New weapons included M-240 machine guns, the M-249 SAW and M-16A2 rifles. Modern vehicles, radios and other types of gear

Maj. Gen. Joseph J. Taluto, commander of the 42nd Infantry Division and Task Force Liberty, meets with General George W. Casey, commander of MNF-I, and Lt. Gen. John R. Vines, commander of MNC-I, outside the division's headquarters at FOB Danger in Tikrit in March 2005. (42nd Infantry Division)

flowed into units at an unprecedented rate. For many division troops, the new items required familiarization or refresher training in addition to their normal tactical training regimes.[30]

While the rank and file trained, the42nd Division's leaders planned for the movement to Iraq and the assumption of their mission. In June 2004, the division commander, Maj. Gen. Joseph J. Taluto, traveled to Tikrit with key personnel to conduct a leader's reconnaissance of the zone occupied by the 1st Infantry Division. Shortly afterwards, the division's logistical leaders arrived to work out the details of unit exchanges. During July 2004, all brigade and battalion commanders journeyed to northern Iraq to inspect their future zones of responsibility firsthand. The 1st Division commander, Maj. Gen. John Batiste, welcomed the visits and provided valuable information to the Guardsmen, including the economic, political and religious orientation of the tribes in each province in the division's sector. In addition, the Regulars shared lessons learned and knowledge of insurgent tactics. On December 5, 2004, nearly two hundred officers that represented the senior leadership of both divisions assembled at FOB Danger in Tikrit to rehearse the impending transfer of authority. Before the day ended, the division commanders approved plans for the movement of the Rainbow Division from Kuwait to northern Iraq, the exchange of units, and the 1st Division's withdrawal. Afterwards, General Batiste offered sage advice to the arriving Guardsmen; use force against the insurgents whenever necessary, but end the use of violence as soon as possible because most Iraqis throughout the sector wanted peace.[31]

On February 14, 2005, the 42nd Division assumed responsibility from the 1st Division for coalition efforts in the MND-NC sector during a formal transfer of authority ceremony at FOB Danger. During the previous two weeks, subordinate units throughout the area of responsibility had conducted similar ceremonies. Task Force Liberty was the designation for the overall command headquarters in the MND-NC sector. General Taluto wore two hats: commander, 42nd Division and commander, Task Force Liberty. The sector included portions of four provinces—Salahaddin, Diyala, Tamim and Sulaymaniyah—the size of West Virginia with a population of more than six million Iraqis. Task Force Liberty's mission was to conduct a full spectrum of operations aimed at eliminating insurgents; organizing, training, and equipping Iraqi military and security forces; and providing security and support during upcoming elections.[32]

To carry out his mission, General Taluto had a wide range of forces. The backbone of the 42nd Division was a balanced force of two ARNG and two active duty combat brigades: the 278th RCT and the 116th BCT from the Guard along with the 1st and 3rd BCTs of the 3rd Infantry Division. The blending of ARNG and Regular Army brigades under the overall control of a Guard commanding general was one of the most unique aspects of the entire deployment. In addition to the full complement of support troops, the division included artillery, aviation and engineer brigades. Additionally, Task Force Liberty was partnered with the Iraqi Army's 4th Division and more than 8,000 trained Iraqi security forces posted throughout the four provinces. The task force numbered more than 23,000 active duty troops, Guardsmen and Army Reserve members from more than twenty-eight states. In a unique repeat

Sgt. Eddie Mathis leads a patrol through the streets of Balad Ruz, Iraq, in 2005. His unit is the 278th RCT from Tennessee, and the weapon he carries is the M-21 sniper rifle with scope. (Tech. Sgt. Shane A. Cuomo)

Never Forget!, a painting by Larry Selman, portrays the combat power and service that members of the 42nd Infantry Division demonstrated in north, central Iraq. (42nd Infantry Division)

of military history, the Rainbow Division once again represented troops from all across America.[33]

Because of its large organization and the vast size of its assigned sector of responsibility, the 42nd Division conducted a wider range of operations than any other ARNG major combat unit deployed to OIF. Perhaps its most important and enduring achievement was the training and mentoring of Iraqi military and security forces. Task Force Liberty ran and supervised training at numerous military and police academies that produced increasingly confident and capable local forces. A combination of nearly 50,000 personnel from the two Iraqi Army divisions, police and other security forces stationed in north, central Iraq worked closely with coalition forces. By the summer of 2005, General Taluto reported increases in the proficiency of Iraqi forces and success in transferring to them full responsibility for operations in certain sectors. Two-thirds of Iraqi Army platoons and one-quarter of companies were rated capable of independent operations. Iraqi Army units conducted half of the counterinsurgency fight, either independently or jointly with American troops. Similarly, Iraqi police conducted over half of all law enforcement operations and performed other missions with only minimal coalition support. A reduction in violence and increasing confidence in their own military and police forces prompted the Iraqi people to take a more active role in their own security. In June 2005, as many as 4,000 civilians provided authorities with tips and actionable intelligence that helped thwart both insurgent attacks and criminal activities.[34]

Despite the progress in the reliability of Iraqi forces, the insurgency still posed a serious threat to American troops. Their primary military tasks included protecting FOBs and other installations, escorting convoys, manning checkpoints and roadblocks, conducting mounted patrols, and raiding known and suspected insurgent hideouts. The majority of the insurgents in the sector included stubborn Saddam loyalists and irate fellow Sunnis, all supported by religious extremists and foreign fighters. Relentless pressure from American and Iraqi forces slowly reduced violence across the region. Whenever insurgents were cornered and continued to fight,

Rainbow Division troops unleashed indirect fire and close air support.[35]

In the eastern desert, troopers from Tennessee's 278th RCT attempted to seal the porous border with Iran. Well-hidden infiltration routes allowed drug runners, criminals and heavily armed foreign fighters to cross the Iraqi frontier largely undetected. Capturing individuals crossing the border proved difficult, but the Tennesseans were successful in seizing several caches of abandoned weapons and ammunition.[36]

The IED and the suicide bomber remained the insurgents' weapons of choice against coalition forces. Rainbow Division troops learned that heightened vigilance on patrol and at checkpoints, combined with good tips from the local population, was their best defense against suicide bombers. On several occasions, locals reported suspicious, abandoned vehicles in markets and on busy highways that they believed held explosives. As a result, coalition troops and Iraqi police found and disarmed several vehicles stuffed with high explosives and positioned for detonation. Task Force Liberty launched an aggressive training program against the dreaded IEDs. Citizen-soldiers learned the "Five Cs," a simple set of guidelines they should follow when encountering a suspected IED: confirm, clear, call, cordon and control. The Five Cs represented the automatic response to IEDs of confirming the device's presence, clearing the immediate area, calling ordnance experts to dispose of the device, cordoning off a perimeter, and controlling access to the site. In addition, Guardsmen learned the "5/25 Rule" that taught them to search a security zone of either five or twenty-five meters for IEDs depending upon the duration of halts during patrols and convoys. The Five Cs and the 5/25 rule reinforced troops' awareness of IEDs and helped them to take the appropriate countermeasures, thereby reducing casualties.[37]

Infrastructure improvements, the promotion of local governance and commerce, and free elections helped to usher in a better way of life for Iraqis in the MND-NC sector. Helping to restore public utilities was a major assignment for Task Force Liberty. From local schools to health clinics and large-scale power plants, reconstruction boomed. By the summer of 2005, the coalition had sunk $2 billion into nearly 2,000 projects; 900 were completed, 550 were under way, and another 450 were ready to start. To promote local economies, coalition troops heightened security at open market places which were too often targets of vicious terrorist attacks. More than 950 businesses were newly registered at local chambers of commerce. Rainbow Division troops often provided security for local government meetings, and when invited to do so, acted as facilitators or honest brokers when officials had difficulty resolving contentious issues. One of the greatest hopes for a new Iraq appeared with the conduct of local and national elections free of insurgent violence. On election days, 42nd Division troops were posted in the vicinity of polling stations for added security, but they were careful to allow Iraqis to organize, run, and provide on-site security at voting sites.[38]

By November 2005, Rainbow Division Guardsman began returning home, relieved by members of the 101st Airborne Division. During their tour of duty, they killed or captured more than 2,000 insurgents, conducted more than 4,500 raids, and captured more than 450 stockpiles of enemy weapons. One of Task Force Liberty's greatest accomplishments was in advancing the training, size and capabilities of military and police forces. As Iraqi forces increased their proficiency, Task Force Liberty turned over the control of ten FOBs and two palace complexes to them, thereby greatly reducing the footprint of coalition forces. By the end of its tour, the 42nd Division had supervised nearly 1,400 construction projects and initiated another 800 that were handed off to the 101st for completion. To General Taluto his division had "made a difference" in Iraq, and his greatest reward during the deployment was observing citizen-soldiers in action. "Watching brave young men and women going about their business is inspirational and a thing of beauty," he remarked just days before the 42nd Division returned stateside.[39]

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[2] William G. Robertson, General Editor, *In Contact! Case Studies from the Long War,* Vol. I, "Palm Sunday Ambush, 20 March 2005," by Thomas A. Bruscino, Jr. (Fort Leavenworth, KS: Combat Studies Institute, 2006), 59-81; and Staff Sgt. Timothy F. Nein, Squad Leader, 2nd Squad, 4th Platoon, 617th MP Company, Kentucky ARNG, interview by Thomas A. Bruscino, Jr., Combat Studies Institute, June 28, 2006, at Fort Leavenworth, KS, passim. All information on Raven 42 and the Palm Sunday ambush is from these two references unless otherwise noted. The interview is part of the Combat Studies Institute's Operational Leadership Experience project, a collection of firsthand, multi-service accounts from military personnel who planned, participated in and supported operations in the global war on terrorism.

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[8] Ibid.

[9] Bruning, *The Devil's Sandbox,* 57-62.

[10] Ibid.

[11] Bruning, *The Devil's Sandbox,* 71-84.

[12] Shawn Day, "Guard Commander Recalls Struggles, Victories," *Statesman Journal*, April 4, 2005, 1-2.

[13] Bruning, *The Devil's Sandbox*, 239-48.

[14] Day, "Guard Commander Recalls Struggles, Victories," 1-2.

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[18] Lt. Col. Bernie Williford, e-mail response to submitted questions from the author concerning 30th Brigade vehicles taken to Iraq, October 8, 2008. Lieutenant Colonel Williford served as the S4 (Supply) officer of the 30th Brigade during the OIF II deployment.

[19] Lt. Col. Barry Hull, 30th Brigade S3 Plans Officer, and Maj. Matthew Handley, 30th Brigade Public Affairs Officer, conference call and joint interview with John W. Listman, Jr., NGB contract historian, October 3, 2008.

[20] Nikki Usher and Hal Dardick, "Twin Mourns Brother who was Killed in Iraq," *Chicago Tribune*, March 25, 2004. Unit placements were taken from several issues of *Battle Sight*, the 30th Brigade's command information publication in OIF.

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CHAPTER FIVE

CITIZEN-SOLDIERS AND AIRMEN AT WAR

The Iraq War resulted in the largest commitment of citizen-soldiers and airmen to combat since World War II. The use of Guard personnel in various missions across the expanse of Iraq and the complex nature of the war meant that each of their individual experiences was unique. At the same time, patterns of service did emerge as a result of common mobilization, deployment, utilization and redeployment practices. Since the National Guard is a community based organization, the losses reflected in the high number of killed and wounded were felt all across the nation. While much about war as a human experience has changed little through the ages, the Iraq War introduced a number of new dimensions. Emerging information technology made it the most visible, transparent and reported war in history. Improved communications allowed Guard members to stay in closer touch with families and friends than in any previous conflict. Despite technological advances, the Iraq War remained a very human endeavor. The following sections convey the key aspects of the human experience that citizen-soldiers and airmen shared in Iraq.

Members of the 42nd Infantry Division climb a jetway to board a chartered, commercial airliner for the long flight to Kuwait. (NGB)

TOUR OF DUTY

For most ARNG members, their first indication of possible duty in Iraq came through the rumor mill followed by formal notification that their unit had been alerted for mobilization. Alert orders usually arrived several weeks before a unit's actual mobilization date. On mobilization day, unit members assembled at their home armories and began pre-deployment activities. Most measures involved updating required paperwork, including wills, insurance forms, and pay records, and undergoing physical and dental exams. It was not unusual for smaller, scattered detachments to join their parent units prior to movement to federal mobilization stations. Cross-leveling of personnel and equipment was completed to bring units up to acceptable readiness levels. Family Support Groups were revitalized or organized. In addition to military duties, Guard men and women tended to necessary and often difficult personal business to prepare themselves and their families for an absence of a year or more.[1]

Unit farewells were organized and memorable events, often hosted by state and local officials. As always, farewells were emotional with Guard members reflecting on the many unknowns and dangers that lay ahead and family members and friends anticipating the pain and fear of separation and possible loss. All across America, local communities turned out in large numbers to see their troops off no matter what time of day or

night. Units usually traveled to mobilization stations by military convoy or in chartered commercial buses.

A whole network of federal sites prepared Guardsmen for overseas duty with post-mobilization training. The busiest mobilization stations included Forts Dix and Stewart on the East Coast and Fort Lewis, Washington, on the West Coast. Fort McCoy, Wisconsin, and Camp Atterbury, Indiana, were busy mobilization stations in the Midwest. Fort Hood was a popular training site for mechanized and armored forces as well as Camp Shelby, Mississippi. ARNG combat units also traveled to Fort Polk, Louisiana, for urban warfare training.

Time spent at mobilization stations was often just as rewarding as it was frustrating. The most overt rewards came in the forms of newly issued weapons, vehicles and equipment. Unlike previous mobilizations, Guardsmen received in large numbers the most modern weapons and equipment that were compatible with those used by active duty troops. Training regimes focused on specific tasks units were to perform in Iraq: convoy escort, base security, mounted patrols and search and seizures. Detection of IEDs and reactions to IED attacks were common training topics. Small units based on platoons and squads reconfigured themselves into smaller three- and four-man sections in order to properly man the HMMWVs that would carry them into battle. Daily images of American troops fighting and dying in Iraq in newspapers, on television, and on the Internet reminded state soldiers that they were headed in harm's way and motivated them to concentrate on their training with a single-minded purpose. Once training regimes were completed, most Guard personnel received a period of leave to tend to personal business and to bid their families and friends a final farewell.

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Despite their success in preparing troops for combat, mobilization stations too often were a source of frustration. On a regular basis, mobilization authorities refused to accept paperwork and the results of inspections previously completed at home station. Guardsmen had to waste valuable time filling out certain forms a second time as well as repeating medical exams. Army Reserve units were often responsible for training National Guard troops, and reserve officers without the benefit of recent combat experience often differed over training standards and results, a situation that was a significant training distraction. Guardsmen were also frustrated by the fact that active duty troops with recent combat experience were usually present on the very same installation but took no part in their training. Persistent, repeated problems at mobilization stations seemed to defy remedy, and challenges in this regard remain to the present.

For individual Guard members, the movement to Iraq was the starkest step in their transition from peace to war. Heavy equipment moved by rail from mobilization and training equipment sites and mobilization stations to deep water ports

Living conditions in Iraq were often austere. Members of the Texas National Guard try to get some sleep in a hot, crowded, temporary building before moving to better accommodations. (TX NG)

where it was loaded aboard transport ships for the long voyage to Kuwait. Personnel flew to the Middle East along various routes on chartered commercial airliners, a journey that lasted as long as twenty hours. Upon arrival on the ground in Kuwait, the onslaught of hot temperatures hit Guardsmen immediately. Units moved to austere but secure camps in the Kuwaiti desert where they awaited the arrival of their heavy equipment and continued to train and acclimate to the heat. For those units issued repaired or refurbished HMMWVs, citizen-soldiers scrambled to add improvised armored protection. When heavy equipment arrived, preparations began immediately for movement into Iraq.

On deployment day, long convoys of vehicles snaked their way north toward Baghdad. Many ARNG units received their baptism of fire and their first casualties during the passage from the relative safety of Kuwait to the dangerous environment found in Iraq. For the first time, Guardsmen fired their weapons in anger in response to insurgent attacks on convoys that were sudden, violent and deadly. After a harrowing trip that usually lasted two days, units arrived at their camp or FOB that would serve as their tactical base for the next twelve months or longer.

For most citizen-soldiers, hot, dusty and often isolated FOBs were their home away from home. A prime concern was essential creature comforts, including an air conditioned place to sleep, clean hot and cold water, adequate food, workout facilities and access to phones and computers that permitted frequent contact with home. Above all else, FOBs were a source of safety and security where soldiers could renew their fighting spirit and find a psychological break from battle. Bomb shelters, bunkers and sandbagged barriers provided protection against sporadic mortar and missile fire. The security and detachment from Iraqi society and Islamic practices that FOBs afforded allowed troops to safely practice their individual religious beliefs and to celebrate traditional American holidays like the Fourth of July and Christmas. In the early years of the conflict, FOBs provided security but tended to isolate troops from the very people they had been sent to protect. On base, good-natured rivalries sometimes developed between those permanently assigned to administrative and support functions and those going on patrol. *The Lord of the Rings* movies were popular at the time, and permanent party personnel became known as "Fobbits," a wordplay on the race of pint-sized Hobbits featured in the fantasy films.

The security of FOBs allowed Americans to observe their traditional holidays. Female members of Louisiana's 256th BCT celebrate Mardi Gras in Iraq in early 2005. (NGB)

World War II and Korea had been fought by division and regimental commanders. In Vietnam, captains commanded their units during search and destroy missions. The Iraq War was fought by even smaller units, mostly squads and sections. From FOBs small groups of ARNG soldiers riding in HMMWVs sallied forth on any number of security missions. They battled extreme temperatures and dust storms as much as the enemy. Bottled water and Meals Ready to Eat sustained troops during extended missions. While insurgents posed a mortal threat, the large social, religious and cultural gulfs between themselves and the Iraqi people created other unavoidable tensions and misunderstandings. The Americans hired Iraqi interpreters, often with money from their own pockets, and the job became one of the most dangerous in the entire country.

Mobilization and deployment procedures for citizen-airmen were significantly different than those for the Army Guard. The ANG applied its tried and true method of volunteerism to OIF's extended commitments. As much as possible,

While on a night patrol in Diyala Province, 1st Lt. Smith of North Carolina's Company B, 1st Battalion, 120th Infantry, 30th Infantry Brigade questions local men about insurgent activity. The Iraqi in the center wearing a mask is an interpreter. (NGB)

the Air Guard used individual volunteers to meet Air Force requirements. Rather than sending entire units to Iraq, the Air Guard mobilized expeditionary packages as small as individual aircraft, single squadrons or portions of support units manned by volunteers as much as possible. The typical Air Guard member deployed to and returned from Iraq on assigned combat aircraft or on chartered commercial airliners. A key aspect of OIF was that ground support units were just as essential to the war effort as flying units, especially air traffic controllers, civil engineers and security forces. In Iraq, citizen-airmen usually lived and served on captured commercial airports or military air bases. Others were on duty at one of the many Air Force installations surrounding the Persian Gulf. Air Guard personnel also tended to serve shorter but more frequent tours than their Army Guard partners but were just as glad to return home as anyone else.

Citizen-soldiers and airmen alike seemed drawn to the Iraqi people and their plight. To most Americans, the Iraqis were hapless victims of violence, poverty and oppression just trying to make do as best as they could. Unlike previous wars, Americans did not form harsh attitudes toward the natives in general and never adopted a derisive nickname for Iraqis other than "hajjis," a term that referred to Muslims who had made their mandatory pilgrimage to Mecca. Guard organizations often adopted local Iraqi institutions, especially children's schools and orphanages. Family Support Groups at home solicited schools, churches, businesses and the public to gather clothing and supplies which they shipped to Guard units for distribution to Iraqi civilians. Citizen-soldiers on foot patrol handing out candy to children became one of the most popular and familiar images of the Iraq War.

The most widely anticipated date for Guard members serving in Iraq was the transfer of authority day, when a new, replacement unit formally assumed control of their area of responsibility. Those headed home often underwent the reverse process of their journey to the Middle East. In many cases, Guard units left their heavy equipment in Iraq for use by other organizations. Units leaving equipment behind consolidated their personnel at BIAP or a large LSA for a military flight out of the country, then transferred to a chartered civilian airliner for the final flight stateside. Other units convoyed back to Kuwait, turned in their equipment for repair or shipment home, and departed the region by civilian aircraft.

Guard personnel usually touched down at home at either large commercial airports and military installations or mobilization sites. In many cases, troops transferred quickly to

ARNG units frequently adopted local Iraqi institutions and provided humanitarian aid, often collected by families and friends back in the states. Sgt. Shauna Cashion of Illinois' 233rd MP Company helps distribute school supplies to students at the primary school at al Sa'ad. (233rd MP Company)

Members of Vermont's 158th Fighter Wing are greeted by their families at the Burlington ANG Base upon their return home from Iraq in 2006. (VT NG)

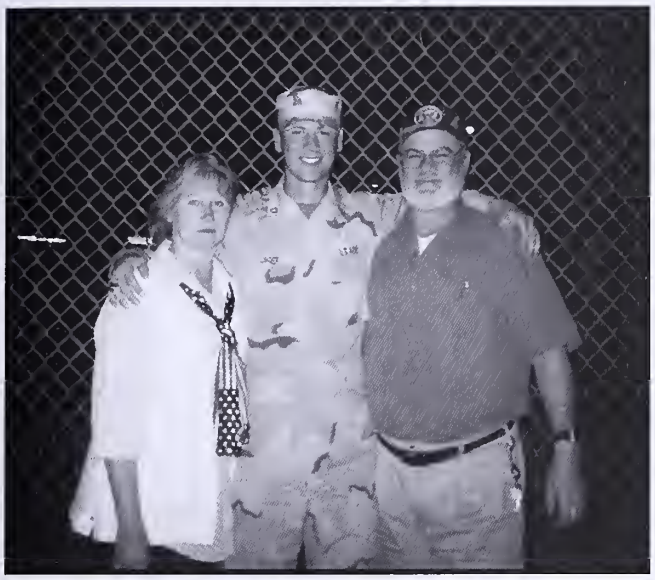
waiting buses for the last leg of the long journey home, often to the same armories they had left more than a year earlier. During the final road trip, supporters waved from passing vehicles, and roadside signs and banners greeted them along the way. Upon arrival, units stood in formation for a short, formal greeting before dismissal. Reunions with family members were always heartfelt and emotional. Despite the joy of reunion, in the back of most veterans' minds at that moment were thoughts of those who had been wounded and unable to complete the journey with them as well as memories of others who had fallen in Iraq and would never return home.

ALL GAVE SOME, SOME GAVE ALL

For the National Guard, the adage that "Freedom is not Free" certainly applied to the Iraq War. Not since World War II had the National Guard endured the level of casualties it suffered in Iraq. By the end of 2006, the number of Americans killed had reached 3,000, including 384 Guardsmen. All across Iraq, Guard units held solemn ceremonies to honor the memory of fallen comrades. A pair of empty boots, usually adorned with combinations of helmets, rifles and flags, became a dignified memorial for each citizen-soldier lost. At home, the sad news of a death caused others to rally to the aid of stricken families. As the war continued, escalating combat deaths eventually sparked sharp debates over the war's merits and the proper role of citizen-soldiers.

No single death can represent all those who perished, but one casualty epitomized the best in Guardsmen and their families when faced with an unspeakable loss. Spc. Daniel P. Unger was only nineteen years old when he died on May 25, 2004, in a mortar attack. A devout Christian, Specialist Unger perished because he put the lives of others ahead of his own. According to his family, the young citizen-soldier's life and death conformed to one of Christianity's greatest articles of faith: "Greater love has no one than this, that one lay down his life for his friends." (John 15:13) [2]

An honor guard from the 30th BCT presents the colors at a memorial service for Sgt. DeForest L. Talbert who was killed near Balad Ruz on July 27, 2004. (NC NG)



Spc. Daniel P. Unger with his mother, Lynda, and his father, Marc, on Farewell Day at Fort Irwin, California, March 13, 2004. (Unger Family)

As a member of the California ARNG's Company A, 1st Battalion, 185th Armor, Specialist Unger mobilized with his unit in November 2003, and deployed to FOB Kalsu in Iraq. A licensed minister, Daniel Unger was also a fourth-degree black belt champion and a four-year starting center fielder on his high school baseball team. On the day of his death, he was assigned to act as an armed escort for Iraqi contractors working on the base. When the compound came under mortar attack, soldiers immediately rushed for their bunkers, but the contractors became afraid and confused. Specialist Unger exposed himself to deadly fire while pushing the civilians into the nearest bunker until they were all safe. A final round exploded nearby and mortally wounded him, and for his selfless actions, Specialist Unger received the Bronze Star, the Purple Heart, and the coveted Combat Infantryman's Badge.

In an unexpected development, Unger's death resulted in a unique call to duty for his own father. Back home in Exeter, California, Daniel's father, Pastor Marc Unger, searched for a way to honor his son's sacrifice. He developed a pamphlet and created a website that detailed his son's selfless actions and encouraged others to emulate Daniel's patriotism and sense of duty. Marc Unger finally followed his own advice. In December 2004, the 53-year-old pastor volunteered as a military chaplain in California's State Military Reserve with the rank of first lieutenant. His new calling was to minister to military members and their families working and living in California's Central Valley. "It will be an honor to serve," the elder Unger declared. "An honor you wish no one else had to do, but an honor nonetheless, because these are heroes."

At the same time, thousands of others were seriously wounded. IED attacks inflicted unique, grievous wounds. The devices placed Guard members in the close proximity of terrific, powerful explosions that rent limbs from the body and inflicted significant concussive blows to the brain and other internal organs. The keys to survival were armored protection, body armor, and advanced evacuation and treatment regimes that kept many alive who would have otherwise perished. In return for their survival, citizen-soldiers endured amputation of limbs and long, painful periods of rehabilitation as they learned to live with prosthetic devices.

Perhaps the most remarkable wounded veteran of the war was Maj. L. Tammy Duckworth of the Illinois ARNG. One of the few female combat pilots in the armed forces, Major Duckworth was piloting a Black Hawk helicopter on November 12, 2004, when her aircraft was shot down by an RPG. The explosion blew through the cockpit, taking Duckworth's legs with it, and leaving her near death. With the aid of her crew, she was able to land the Black Hawk before she completely passed out. At a Baghdad hospital, Duckworth awoke long enough to ask about her crew, all of whom survived the crash. Her concern was part of the soldier's creed she wore on a pendant around her neck: "Mission first, never quit, never accept defeat, never leave a fallen comrade." The creed would serve her well during her long path to recovery.[3]

Within days, Duckworth was transferred to Walter Reed Army Medical Center in Washington, DC. She was no longer fighting for her life, but learning to live as a disabled veteran. She lost the use of her right arm and narrowly

escaped having it amputated. Then there was the issue of her legs: being fit for prostheses, learning to walk again, and a grueling rehabilitation regimen that left her exhausted. Strong and athletic, Duckworth had to cope with being newly dependent, giving up former interests and adapting to her new look.

Maj. L. Tammy Duckworth of the Illinois ARNG's 1st Battalion, 106th Aviation Regiment, narrates the "Salute to Fallen Asian Pacific Islander Heroes" during the Defense Department's Asian Pacific American Heritage Month luncheon and military awards ceremony in Arlington, Virginia, on June 2, 2005. (DOD)

There were emotional wounds as well that needed healing. Duckworth's father was a retired Army captain and Purple Heart recipient who was a veteran of the Korean and Vietnam wars. He had experienced a heart attack the week before his daughter was wounded and another two weeks later. Duckworth had not seen her father in a year and a half, and they had unresolved issues she wanted to work through. Finally, the elder Duckworth was cleared to fly to Washington, the same day that a general pinned the Purple Heart, the Air Medal, and the Army Commendation Medal on his daughter's uniform. Father and daughter, both Purple Heart recipients, spent the Christmas holidays together and were able to reconcile some of their differences. Unfortunately, her father's heart stopped beating again soon afterwards, and he died. Just four months after fighting for her own life, Tammy Duckworth attended her father's funeral at Arlington National Cemetery.

Afterwards, she returned to Illinois where life took her in new directions. She gained notoriety by speaking before Congress about the needs of wounded veterans. In 2006, Duckworth ran for office in Illinois' 6th Congressional District, losing the election to her opponent by only 2 percent of the vote. Only days after the contest, the governor of Illinois appointed her as the director of the Illinois Department of Veterans Affairs where she became a strong and effective advocate for the state's veterans. All the while, she maintained her rank as major in the Illinois Guard. Despite her many successes, Tammy Duckworth remained humble about her combat experience, saying that she was just doing her job like any other soldier and that she would not have survived without the aid of her flight crew with whom she continued to maintain close contact.

Not all wounded veterans were so fortunate in their treatment and recovery. Air Guard and Air Force Reserve air ambulances evacuated the most severely wounded to facilities in Germany or stateside. Those rendered comatose by concussions from IED attacks often did not regain consciousness until weeks later, when they awoke at Walter Reed or at a hospital in Germany. Recovery periods were often slow and painful, especially for amputees. Outpatient care for the less severely wounded was physically and mentally challenging, and at one point, became a national scandal over disgusting living conditions at Walter Reed. Wounded veterans often felt alone and isolated, cut off from their battle buddies. A universal sentiment expressed by the wounded was an overwhelming desire to rejoin their units in Iraq. Many lingered aimlessly at military installations awaiting the findings of

medical review boards that determined their care and duty status. Once home, many found worth and solace in organizing themselves to help other wounded veterans and to arrange welcomes for returning units. In Oregon, wounded veterans from the 2-162nd Infantry formed "The Blasted Bastards" whose mission was to help other wounded by getting them to counseling and assisting them in cutting through masses of frustrating, impersonal red tape that too often characterized the Veterans Administration and other health care providers.[4]

Not all wounds were physical, and as the war continued, cases of post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) became more pronounced. When she returned home, Spc. Ashley Pullen, a member of Raven 42 who had received the Bronze Star with V-device for her actions in the Palm Sunday ambush, was diagnosed as a severe PTSD casualty. A last-minute transfer from her original unit to the 617th MP Company on the eve of deployment fostered isolation that affected her in Iraq and afterwards. When she returned home to Kentucky, Specialist Pullen suffered from lingering fears of imminent attacks, mood swings and a lack of concentration. As an antidote, she stayed close to her family and husband, making little contact with the outside world while undergoing treatment. "I don't watch the news," she told a reporter. "I don't want to hear about it. I don't want to see it. I don't even like the word Iraq."[5]

Throughout its history, the National Guard has been a community-based force. While this tends to build unit cohesion and strong ties with local communities, it can have tragic consequences. Heavy combat losses to a National Guard unit can inflict significant pain and grief upon a single town. During World War II, tiny Bedford, Virginia, lost nineteen young men killed when its National Guard infantry company stormed ashore on Omaha Beach on D-Day. In the war on terror to date, two small communities have lost large numbers of Guard members.

Crowds lined the streets of Houma, Louisiana, when more than one hundred of its Guard members left for Iraq. It was the first time the unit—Company C, 2nd Battalion, 156th Infantry, known as "The Black Sheep"—had deployed to combat since World War II. The residents of Houma, located sixty miles southwest of New Orleans, received the shocking news that on January 6, 2005, six of their native sons had perished when a massive IED destroyed their Bradley. In the parish of 32,000 people, most knew the Guardsmen. They had gone to school, fished, and worked with one another. When their coffins came home, the people of Houma turned out to receive their Black Sheep, leaving flowers and messages around the armory's flagpole. As of the end of 2006, Houma's fatalities were the largest loss in the war on terror of Guard members from a single community.[6]

Members of the 1544th Transportation Company from Paris, Illinois, on duty in Iraq during 2004. The unit suffered five killed and another thirty-two wounded during its deployment. (IL NG)

The residents of Paris, Illinois, understood the grief in Louisiana. The town of 9,000 is home to the Army Guard's 1544th Transportation Company, a 170-member unit that draws it personnel from Missouri, Kentucky, and Indiana, as well as Illinois. Five members of the 1544th lost their lives in Iraq. In addition to those killed, more than two dozen Guard members from Paris were seriously wounded. When the 1544th returned home in early 2005 after a year in Iraq, an estimated 5,000 people turned out to wave flags

and banners and to welcome them home. Formal speeches made the 1544th's contributions clear: more than 1,200 missions completed in Iraq, more than 580,000 miles driven, and more than 100 mortar attacks endured. Among its 170 citizen-soldiers, thirty-two received the Purple Heart.[7]

GUARD FAMILIES AT WAR

Family service has a long tradition in the National Guard, and it is not unusual for family members to serve together in combat. Usually brother-with-brother, sometimes father-with-son, groupings of Guard families served throughout Iraq. Often they were on duty in the same company or battalion, providing important moral support to one another. Those in geographically separated units often arranged short reunions throughout their tours.

One of the most unique family pairings involved a mother and son. Chief Warrant Officer 3 Tammy Kostoff and her son, Spc. Lauren Kostoff, were both members in the Montana ARNG. When Lauren, a cavalry scout, received orders to Iraq, his mother volunteered to serve also as the 116th Brigade's resource manager. In country, both were assigned to the 42nd Division and Task Force Liberty. Chief Kostoff worked on FOB Danger, while Lauren fought as a cavalryman at FOB Warrior, some seventy miles away. Though both were in north, central Iraq, their time together was limited. However, one reunion led to a singularly unique circumstance; mother and son went on a combat patrol together. "Being on patrol with my son was amazing," Tammy recalled. "I never really knew exactly what he did until I experienced it firsthand. I am so proud of him." As one might expect, Lauren received a lot of good-natured ribbing from his fellow Guardsmen for having his mother so close by. He took it all with a smile, adding: "I'm very proud to say that my mother is in the same combat zone as I am in."[8]

The Iraq War added a new dimension to the tradition of Guard family service and sacrifice: three sisters together in combat. Rachel, Michelle and Charity Witmer of New Berlin, Wisconsin, had all enlisted in the Wisconsin Guard. Rachel went first to Iraq with the 32nd MP Company. The twins, Michelle and Charity, who were four years younger, followed suit. Michelle joined Rachel in the 32nd MP Company, while Charity became a medic with the 118th Medical Battalion.[9]

John and Lori Witmer hold a picture of their deceased daughter, Michelle. Charity sits at right, Michelle's surviving twin sister. (Charles Haig)

At the height of Guard deployments, all three sisters were serving in Iraq. "I'm ready to step up and do what's asked of me...for my country," Michelle said before heading to war. Michelle was killed on April 9, 2004, when small arms fire riddled the Humvee in which she was riding. She was only twenty years old, becoming the first female National Guard member ever to be killed in action. Rachel and Charity returned home immediately to their parents and two brothers to mourn the death of Michelle, who became the Wisconsin Guard's first casualty since World War II. The parents, Lori and John Witmer, pleaded with the National Guard not to send their surviving daughters back into combat. Throughout their suburban Milwaukee community, references were made to the movie

Saving Private Ryan, based on an Iowa family who lost three sons in World War II and may have lost the fourth, had the Army not gone to great lengths to deliver him home alive.

Rachel and Charity struggled with their loyalty to their Guard family and the needs of their own family at home. The sisters sent a message to their comrades in Iraq: "Our thoughts and prayers are with you. Not a minute goes by that we don't think about you. We are conflicted because we have two families, and we can't be with both at the same time." Finally, they took the advice of the Wisconsin TAG, Maj. Gen. Albert H. Wilkening, who asked that the surviving sisters request reassignment outside of Iraq. With the support of Rachel and Charity's unit commanders, General Wilkening said his request was made not only because of their family's needs but also because the international visibility of Michelle's death could put their units in Iraq at increased risk. Perhaps the biggest influence on Rachel and Charity came from their fellow unit members who sent a resounding message that they should serve both their country and their family by staying in Wisconsin. Mary Kulla, the 32nd MP Company's family support coordinator, said she did not hear one single citizen-soldier say otherwise.

GRAYING TIGERS

The debut of the all-volunteer military in the early 1970s meant that the Iraq War would be the first protracted conflict in modern times fought without the aid of conscription. The Army and the Air Force's heavy reliance on the National Guard, and the extended nature of the Iraq War, resulted in the maximum utilization of manpower. For many Guardsmen, this resulted in repeated deployments. In other cases, it required the return to the battlefield of volunteers in the twilight of their military careers who had already served their nation in combat decades earlier. Of the Vietnam veterans still in uniform, most were Guard members, and many of them served in Iraq. These graying tigers were quick to compare the two experiences and to mentor and praise the young men and women with whom they served in Iraq.

Staff Sgt. Harold Paskins of the Indiana Army National Guard's 1st Battalion, 293rd Infantry held two well known distinctions throughout his unit. At age 60, Sergeant Paskins was the oldest soldier in the battalion and the only one to have fought as an infantryman in Vietnam. When his Fort Wayne unit was mobilized for the Iraq War, Sergeant Paskins did not hesitate to serve. "I had eighteen young soldiers, and I felt I could help them by coming over here," he explained. A mess sergeant, he managed a dining facility at Camp Arifjan in Kuwait, a forward base for thousands of soldiers and Marines entering Iraq. At the beginning of OIF, Sergeant Paskins and his men worked and slept in chemical suits for two weeks while providing hot meals to those entering the combat zone. When he approached retirement in 2004, Sergeant Paskins remembered OIF as the proudest deployment of his twenty-seven-year military career.[10]

Chief Warrant Officer 4 Billy W. Burfeind of the Kansas National Guard was one of the ARNG's Vietnam veterans who returned to Iraq for a second tour of duty in a war zone. Chief Burfeind served with Texas' 36th Combat Aviation Brigade during its deployment to Iraq. (TX NG)

Chief Warrant Officers DeWayne Browning and Randy Weatherhead were California ARNG aviators who deployed with the 42nd Division. More than thirty years earlier, they had piloted the venerable UH-1 Huey helicopter over the Mekong Delta. In 2004, they flew the modern UH-60 Black Hawk over the dangerous Sunni Triangle.

Despite their affinity for the Huey, both pilots were enamored with the Black Hawk's power, reliability and better instrumentation and avionics. Both were more optimistic about the outcome of the Iraq War than the Vietnam conflict. They saw a clearer mission than in Vietnam, a more supportive public back home, and an Iraqi population that seemed to grow friendlier toward Americans. When Chief Browning came home for two weeks of leave, more than a hundred people met the plane to welcome soldiers home, a far different and warmer reception than he received when returning from Vietnam.[11]

Master Sgt. Terry Upchurch of the Florida ANG's 506th Operations Support Squadron was one of the few Air Guard veterans still serving who dodged enemy mortar and rocket attacks in Vietnam while performing as an air traffic controller at a forward base. When he stepped off the plane in Iraq, his mind went back to Vietnam. There he remembered everything as being green—uniforms, buildings, vegetation, vehicles—while everything in Iraq was brown. In Vietnam, senior NCOs took him under their wing; now he led and mentored younger airmen. The biggest difference however was the speed of communications. "I didn't have e-mail in Vietnam," Sergeant Upchurch observed. "I could only get word back and forth (to my wife) every ten days. Today, I can talk to my wife every day." Despite the many changes in time and space, the graying tigers agreed that one thing apparently had not changed: the teamwork and dedication of American citizen-soldiers and airmen.[12]

THE UP-ARMORED HMMWV CONTROVERSY

As a strategic reserve during the early Cold War, Guard units routinely lacked modern weapons and equipment or endured outright equipment shortages. The Total Force Policy greatly reduced the disparities, but the war on terror once again resulted in severe equipping problems. The National Guard was forced to cross-level large amounts of equipment to units preparing for overseas deployments in order for them to meet deployment standards. As a result, units remaining at home had less equipment on hand to conduct homeland security and disaster response missions. Furthermore, Guard units returning from Afghanistan and Iraq were often forced to leave their equipment in the combat zone as replacements for weapons and vehicles worn out by high usage. In the four years following September 11, the Defense Department invested $4.3 billion in equipment for Guard units deploying to overseas combat. Still, such a huge expenditure failed to stem steep declines in Guard equipment readiness. Prior to September 11, ARNG equipping levels routinely stood above 65 percent, but by 2006 the Army Guard possessed less than 35 percent of the equipment required to perform its wartime mission. The greatest shortfalls were in communications and medical equipment, helicopters, trucks, and engineering items.[13]

Perhaps no other Guard equipping issue caught the public's attention more than the shortage of up-armored HMMWVs.

Perhaps no other Guard equipping issue caught the public's attention more than the shortage of up-armored HMMWVs. If the Huey helicopter is the iconic image of the Vietnam War, the up-armored HMMWV came to symbolize the Iraq War. The lack of up-armored Humvees to counter the deadly and pervasive threat posed by IEDs became a national issue starting in 2004. While a shortage of the reinforced vehicles was a concern for the entire military, the controversy seemed most acutely felt among citizen-soldiers and their families. In many local communities, construction firms and machine shops joined with veterans and civic groups to gather, purchase, and install improvised armor plating on Guard

A member of New York's 1st Battalion, 69th Infantry loads a .50-caliber machine gun on a supply truck prior to a convoy departure in 2005. Lacking approved armored protection, the crew has welded old steel plates to the truck in various places and applied tape to the inside windshield to protect against shattered glass. Guardsmen called such protective improvisations "hillbilly armor." (Capt. Sean Flynn)

vehicles bound for Iraq. Troubling anecdotal evidence filtered back home that Army inspectors in Kuwait and Iraq ordered the removal of the expedients prior to units entering combat. The lack of up-armored HMMWVs among Guard units buttressed notions of disparities in the quality and quantity of equipment that can exist between Regulars and part-time soldiers.

The up-armored HMMWV controversy reached a flash point on December 8, 2004. During a public visit with troops in Kuwait, Secretary of Defense Donald H. Rumsfeld delivered short prepared remarks and then took questions from the audience. Spc. Thomas Wilson of the Tennessee ARNG's 278th RCT finally stood and asked the vexing question to which many citizen-soldiers and their families wanted a straight answer: "Why do we soldiers have to dig through local landfills for pieces of scrap metal and compromised ballistic glass to up-armor our vehicles, and why don't we have those resources readily available to us?" Secretary Rumsfeld's response that "you go to war with the Army you have…not the Army you might want or wish to have" and that the production rate of up-armored HMMWVs "is all that can be accomplished at this moment" appeared dismissive to citizen-soldiers making final preparations before moving into a combat brusque reply reinforced the belief that not enough was being done to provide up-armored vehicles and Specialist Wilson was the long awaited messenger who finally informed the king that he had no clothes. Over time, the number of available up-armored HMMWVs increased dramatically, but the lack of special vehicles for Guard and Reserve units will remain a hallmark of the early phases of OIF.[14]

In May 2002, Lt. Gen. James R. Helmly assumed the senior leadership position of the U.S. Army Reserve (USAR) as it became fully engaged in the war on terror. In December 2004, General Helmly penned a long and detailed memorandum to General Peter J. Schoomaker, the Army Chief of Staff, outlining a number of serious and growing problems in the Army Reserve. General Helmly stated that he wished to inform the senior Army leadership of the USAR's inability to meet mission requirements in Afghanistan and Iraq and the need to reconstitute and regenerate its forces for follow-on and future missions. What became known as the "Helmly Memo" identified a number of Army policies and procedures that were hurting Reservists, including outdated mobilization practices, an over reliance on individual volunteers rather than full unit mobilizations, repeated deployments of citizen-soldiers in stressed career fields, excessive cross-leveling of personnel and equipment, and the harmful practice of leaving large amounts of weapons and equipment in Iraq for use by subsequent unit rotations. The Helmly Memo may have sought only to address Army Reserve problems, but it succinctly summarized many of the same challenges citizen-soldiers faced in the other reserve components, including the National Guard.[15]

THE EFFECTS OF NEW TECHNOLOGY

Emerging civilian and military technologies had profound influences on the lives of Guard

members. Information technology helped soldiers to enjoy their free time, and for a few hours each day, diverted their minds from routine, difficult circumstances. In past wars, contact with the homefront was a rare, sporadic occasion that greatly lifted morale. But modern communications allowed deployed citizen-soldiers and airmen to remain in close contact with loved ones at home in ways that had been unimaginable just years earlier.

Computer technology greatly affected both the operations and personal activities of citizen-soldiers serving in Iraq. Spc. Jerome DeFrank, assistant communications NCO with HHC, 42nd Infantry Division, programs a Blue Force Tracker device, a sophisticated navigation and communications system used by coalition forces. (NY NG)

A look at life for Pennsylvania ARNG members at Camp Corregidor near Ar Ramadi shows the influence of information technology in citizen-soldiers' lives. On the second floor of the barracks was a recreation room where a big screen television connected to a satellite feed provided access to Armed Forces Network channels. The limited programming provided news, sports and a few comedy shows. A room down the hallway contained twelve computers providing Internet access and eight phones allowing calls home. For personal entertainment, laptop computers were essential. Many citizen-soldiers purchased personal laptops before deployment, holding them as close and dear as their personal weapons. Watching DVDs of old movies and television shows were favorite pastimes, as well as online shopping, Internet surfing and storing pictures and video clips of their tours. For the Nintendo generation, computer games were yet another welcome distraction, especially on FOBs with wireless Internet connections that allowed group participation in online games. Still others used laptops to attend college classes and to complete required military training. "I would go absolutely crazy if I didn't have a laptop," said Spc. Mervin Hengst of the Pennsylvania ARNG, echoing a common sentiment.[16]

E-mails and instant messaging were the most popular means of keeping in touch with those at home rather than letters or telephone calls. In addition, the states often arranged live videoconferences so deployed members could interact directly with family members. Ease of Internet access between home and the battlefront better integrated families into citizen-soldiers' daily lives. However, such unrestricted access on a daily basis sometimes created difficulties. Warriors coming back from traumatic patrols in which comrades had been killed or wounded right in front of their eyes found it challenging to respond to a common e-mail query from home: "How are things going today?" Most replies remained vague, as Guard members did not want to burden loved ones with the stresses of combat or further increase their worries.[17]

The newest communication method that was not without its own controversies was the creation and maintenance of military web logs or "milblogs." A milblog allowed military personnel to establish and maintain a type of online diary of firsthand accounts of life in the war zone complete with narrative, pictures and video clips. To citizen-soldiers and airmen, milblogs were a natural extension of their First Amendment right to free speech, a key concept for which they were putting their own lives at risk in Iraq.

Milblogs required a balancing act between freedom of speech and the need for information security. Milblogs became almost too numerous to count and varied greatly in their quality and content. One of the most popular was www.justanothersoldier.com authored by Sgt. Jason Hartley of the New York Guard who had been part of the rescue and recovery efforts in

New York City following the 9/11 attacks and then deployed to Iraq with his unit. A number of milbloggers converted their work to published books after returning home.[18]

The Defense Department at first held a permissive view toward milblogs, an attitude that changed when it came to light that some irresponsible or naïve personnel were posting classified and sensitive information. Commanders in Iraq were the first to censor milblogs after they found authors posting pictures of detainees, a violation of the Geneva Convention, and detailed tactical information. The Army established a Web Risk Assessment Cell to monitor official and unofficial blogs and other websites for any content that might compromise security. Milbloggers were not prohibited from having a site but were required to register it with their commander and to comply with directives restricting the posting of certain information. In several cases, milbloggers were disciplined for website content. Jason Hartley was demoted from sergeant to specialist and fined for reposting a blog that contained pictures of Iraqi detainees, discussions on weapons' performance and tactical routes Army units frequently used in Iraq.[19]

By the end of 2006, the National Guard had made many significant contributions toward winning the war and helping to bring peace and freedom to the people of Iraq. However, the full extent of its accomplishments can only be understood against a broader, circumspect assessment of the achievements of citizen-soldiers and airmen.

NOTES

[1] The information in this section, unless otherwise noted, was gleaned from impressions the author formed during nearly eighteen months of research and writing on the Iraq War.

[2] Information on the life and death of Specialist Unger is located at http://www.danielunger.com under the tabs for "The Bunker" and "Obituary."

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[4] Bruning, *The Devil's Sandbox*, 275-76.

[5] Sharon Cohen, "War Hero Struggles With Emotional Roller Coaster," *Canadian Press*, December 4, 2006, 1-5.

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[10] DOD, "U.S. Army Staff Sgt. Harold Paskins: Vietnam Veteran Continues to Serve," *Defend America*, "Profiles," September 2003, 1.

[11] Steven Komarow, "Vietnam Vets in Iraq See 'Entirely Different War'; Graying Soldiers Cite Support Among Locals and Americans," *USA Today*, June 21, 2005, A1.

[12] DOD, "Florida Air National Guard Master Sgt. Terry Upchurch: Vietnam Veteran Serves in Iraq," *Defend America*, "Profiles," August 2003, 1.

[13] NGB, *2007 Posture Statement*, 2; and NGB, NGB-LL (Office of Legislative Liaison), *National Guard Equipping Requirements*, September 22, 2005, 4-5.

[14] DOD, "Secretary Rumsfeld Town Hall Meeting in Kuwait," press release, December 8, 2004, 3-4.

[15] Office of the Chief, U.S. Army Reserve, Lt. Gen. James R. Helmly, "Readiness of the United States Army Reserve," memorandum to the Chief of Staff, United States Army, December 20, 2004, 1-2.

[16] Eric Mayes, "Laptops Come in Handy in Iraq," *The Daily Item*, November 23, 2005, 1-2.

[17] Leonard Wong and Stephen Gerras, *CU @ The FOB: How the Forward Operating Base is Changing the Life of Combat Soldiers* (Carlisle, PA: U.S. Army War College, Strategic Studies Institute, March 2006), 13-19.

[18] Mark Memmott, " 'Milbloggers' are Typing Their Place in History; Troops Assume new Posts with Clicks and Keystrokes," *USA Today*, May 12, 2005, A13.

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CHAPTER SIX

CONCLUSIONS

The end of 2006 appeared as a distinct benchmark in the Iraq War. The campaign that started as a quest for regime change reached its eventual conclusion on December 30. Convicted of crimes against the Iraqi people, Saddam Hussein went to the gallows to receive his sentence of death by hanging. The next day, the number of American troops killed in Iraq reached 3,000.

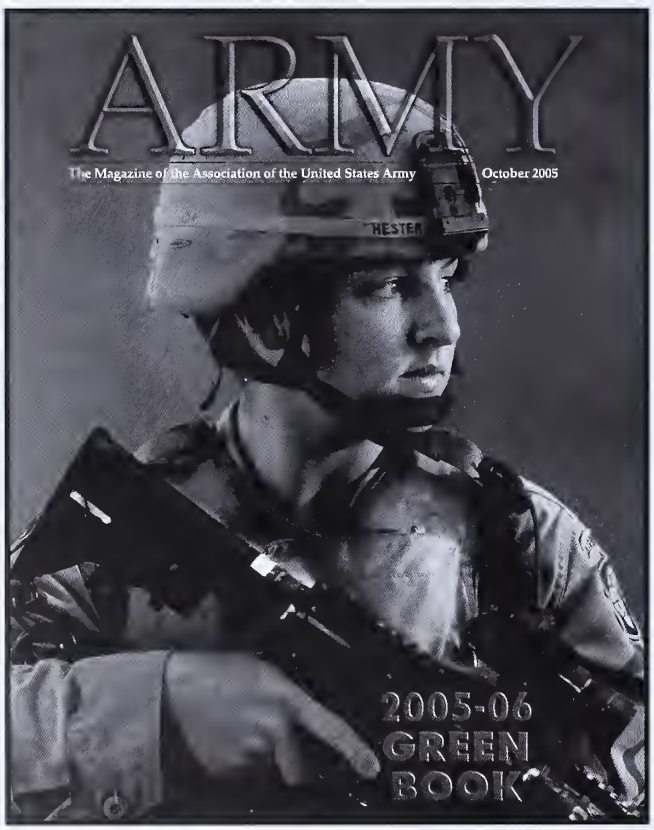
The year had been a difficult one in Iraq. In February al Qaeda's shocking destruction of the golden domed Askariyya Mosque in Samarra, one of the most revered Shiite sites in the world, resulted in a countrywide spike in violence as incensed Shiites lashed out at rival Sunnis with reprisal attacks. The widespread brutality shook American public support for the war effort and caused a crisis of confidence in the war's final outcome. Late in the year, the Iraq Study Group presented President Bush with a report containing a wide range of recommendations for taking the war in a new direction. Instead, the president favored a new "surge strategy" to increase the number of U.S. troops on the ground as the best means of quelling the violence and guaranteeing the survival of the fledgling Iraqi government. The deployment of additional troops would take place under a new MNF-I commander, General David H. Petraeus, who took over as the coalition's newest senior commander in Iraq on January 26, 2007.

During the war's first forty-two months, citizen-soldiers and airmen made a number of vital contributions. ARNG and ANG support units helped in the buildup of forces in the Persian Gulf region before the onset of hostilities. In the war's opening phase, Air Guard tactical units provided deep strike and direct ground support for advancing coalition forces. Army Guard combat units conducted security and guard missions in Iraq and Kuwait while support troops helped to establish and operate the extensive logistical system necessary to sustain coalition operations.

When a temporary occupation became a prolonged struggle against a rising insurgency, the National Guard took on a more direct combat role. ARNG combat brigades shouldered a significant portion of the fighting, even as they assisted in the organization and training of security forces and a new Iraqi Army. Providing security and safety for the Iraqi people became the primary military mission because social stability was an essential prerequisite to introducing a national, democratic government. Toward this aim, National Guard units helped oversee infrastructure reconstruction, restore essential services, promote economic activity and establish local governance. At the same time, state soldiers often developed meaningful social ties with local Iraqi citizens and their institutions.

A citizen-soldier from California's 1st Battalion, 184th Infantry shares candy with Iraqi children while on patrol. Establishing positive relations with local civilians helped to build trust between Iraqis and ARNG soldiers. (NGB)

The performance of citizen-soldiers and airmen in Iraq during 2003-2006 significantly altered attitudes related to the National Guard's role in the national defense. Prior to the attacks of 9/11, many questioned its relevancy in the twenty-first century and desired to relegate citizen-soldiers and airmen to homeland defense missions. The Guard's extensive participation in the war on terror, and in the Iraq War in particular, convinced the nation that not only does the Guard have intrinsic value, but that it is an essential component of the nation's defenses. No longer relegated to the secondary role of a strategic reserve, the National Guard truly became an operational force in the nation's first line of defense. The negative stereotype of National Guardsmen as "weekend warriors" was definitively eradicated. Without the deployment of ARNG combat brigades, the nation could not have successfully conducted the first years of the Iraq War, proof positive that the nation can ill afford to go to war without the National Guard.



Symbolizing the good relations between the Army and the ARNG, Sgt. Leigh Ann Hester was featured on the cover of the 2005-06 Green Book, a special annual edition of *Army* magazine published in October 2005. (AUSA)

The Iraq War produced the most experienced cadre of National Guard generals, officers and NCOs since 1945. From this group will spring the next generation of the National Guard's senior leadership.

Extended combat in Iraq generated a number of positive developments that should affect the Guard's future, especially between the Army and the ARNG. Cooperation and close contact with one another in the combat zone resulted in the best relations between Regulars and Guardsmen since the end of World War II. By working together in battle, active duty and Guard personnel once again became familiar with one another while gaining new knowledge and respect for one another's abilities. In most cases, integrated units operated seamlessly, and any differences between the two groups were all but indistinguishable. In fact, in those missions that required special skills and expertise, Guardsmen often appeared better at their jobs than their active duty counterparts.

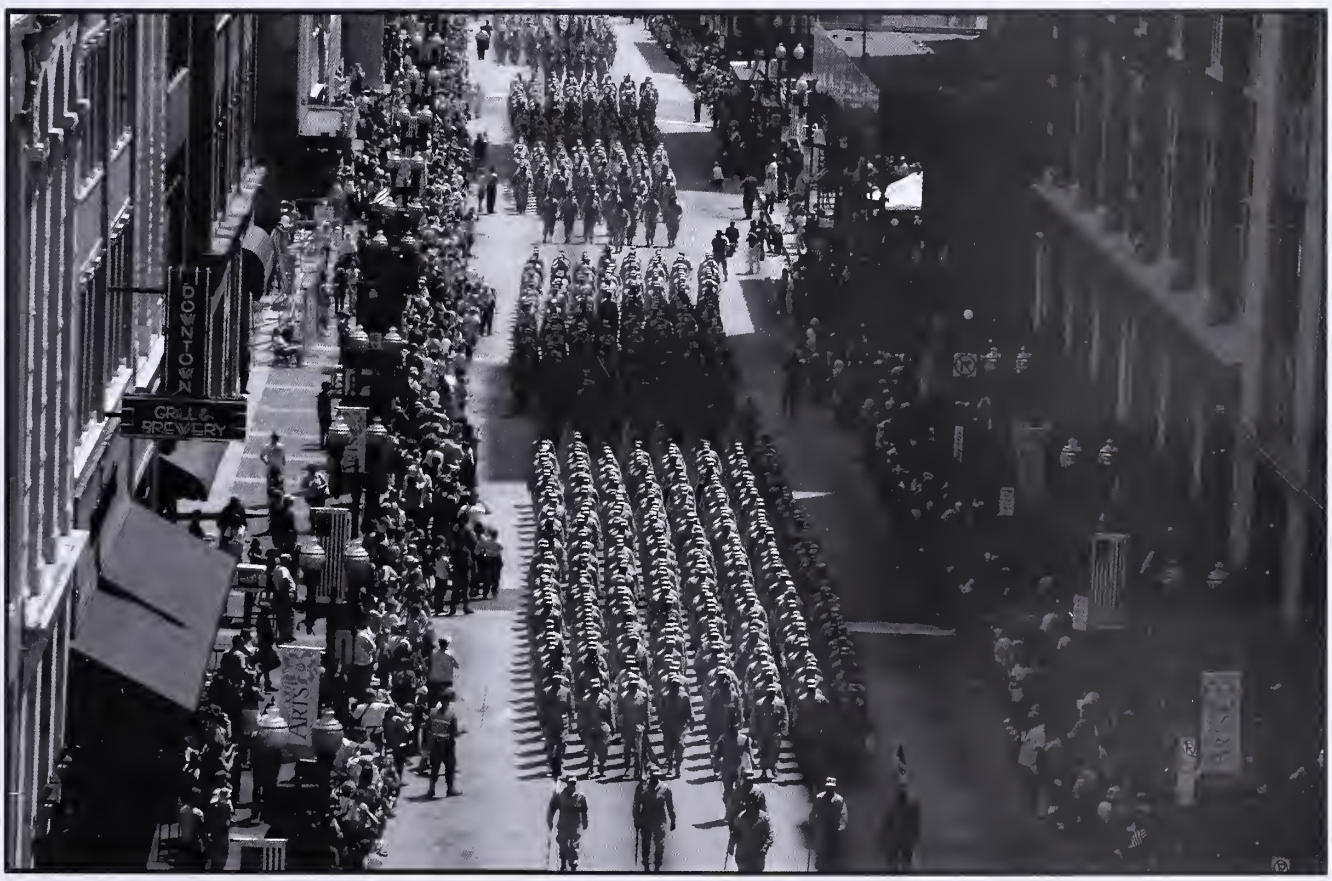
The Iraq War produced the most experienced cadre of National Guard generals, officers and NCOs since 1945. From this group will spring the next generation of the National Guard's senior leadership. At the same time, a new generation of active duty military leaders is emerging that understand and appreciate the importance of citizen-soldiers and airmen as a result of their own firsthand observations. Hopefully, these two groups can cooperate in coming years to ensure that the National Guard occupies a rightful place at the negotiating table during the formulation of defense policy. Such honest cooperation should result in proper policies and the fair allocation of resources that permit the Guard to fulfill its intended role as the nation's combat reserve force.

During the early 1970s, advocates of the Total Force Policy believed that by strengthening the frayed ties between the American people and the military, there would be less chance of America fighting another very unpopular foreign war.

"No More Vietnams!" was the mantra of the day. At a very lofty level, military policy makers hoped that the Total Force Policy would not only engender support for future wars but prevent the commitment of American ground troops to campaigns for which there was little public support. In reality, the Total Force Policy has had little affect on public sentiment toward the Iraq War. The American people have gauged their support for the conflict based on changing war aims, mounting casualties and progress on the ground.

Still the Total Force Policy had a very positive but unintended consequence; it has generated a high level of sustained support for the troops. Unlike the Vietnam War, the American people have not held the combatants culpable for the political decisions and policies that sent them to Iraq. A more sophisticated view of the Iraq War has allowed Americans to sustain a high level of support for the troops, even while questioning war aims or the conduct of the war itself. To their credit, U.S. troops have presented themselves to the public as restrained and disciplined in appearance and demeanor during combat, and in those cases where bad behavior has occurred, authorities have taken swift action to investigate and resolve allegations of wrongdoing. The Total Force Policy clearly fell short of the ambitious aims of generating public support during armed conflicts and avoiding the commitment of ground troops to an unpopular war. However, its clear success in garnering sustained support for the troops themselves has been an outcome just as beneficial and significant.

Within the National Guard, support from employers and families was central in sustaining manpower levels. Employers provided the social insurance of jobs retained and additional income to augment the often reduced pay of citizen-soldiers and airmen while on active duty. Families provided crucial emotional support for those facing mortal danger and extended periods of separation. Relief from stresses at home



Members of the 278th RCT are welcomed home from Iraq as they march in the 46th Annual Dogwood Arts Festival in Knoxville, Tennessee, in April 2006. (TN NG)

allowed Guard members in Iraq to focus on the task at hand and to accomplish their mission. Repeated deployments challenged the willingness of many Guard members to stay in service. The positive attitudes and support of employers and family members were at the heart of the decision-making process that led personnel to reenlist and volunteer for added overseas tours.

Troop morale remained high in Iraq because of the perceived importance of the mission. Maj. Bradford Hughes (left) reenlists Sgt. 1st Class Michael Potts (right), both of the 36th Combat Aviation Brigade, high above Baghdad in a Black Hawk on November 10, 2006. (TX NG)

A detailed assessment of the National Guard's performance near the very height of its involvement in Iraq came from one of its own. In early 2005, the ARNG's most senior enlisted soldier, Command Sgt. Maj. John Gipe, spent three months visiting citizen-soldiers throughout the Middle East. He made a broad assessment of the performance and necessary improvements of those serving in Iraq. State troops had to be in the best physical condition possible at the start of their tours. Every citizen-soldier going on a mounted patrol should know how to operate the crew-served weapon in their vehicle, to drive the Humvee and to perform as a combat lifesaver. Administrative functions such as pay, promotions and the individual replacement system needed reforms and improvements to better support the troops. Training levels seemed good, except in a number of medical skills. Command Sergeant Major Gipe was able to report that citizen-soldiers were not being treated like second-class citizens. He saw "absolutely no indication" that active duty units were receiving better equipment, housing or overall treatment than reserve component personnel.[1]

The Iraq War mobilization resulted in well trained and equipped units prepared for deployment and combat. At the same time, it also produced a number of real and potential problems. Traditionally the National Guard has always sought to retain and promote unit integrity in wartime. Guard members should go to war in the unit in which they enlisted, fight alongside those from their own local community and serve under the leaders who recruited and trained them.

In its desire to meet the tough, complex demands that the Iraq War imposed, the National Guard agreed to the ad hoc mobilization of units and even parts of units. Cross-leveling of personnel also took place at an unprecedented rate. It was not unusual for battalion and separate company-sized units to include troops from other units within a state, but also individual volunteers from other states as well. Unit integrity suffered another blow in Iraq where Guard units were often sliced, diced and scattered among Regular Army and Army Reserve organizations to meet immediate tactical needs. The potential danger facing the Guard is that the mobilization improvisations of the Iraq War could become a new, standard practice that promotes the near unrestrained employment of mixed units and scattered individuals.

Similarly, excessive equipment cross-leveling degraded the Guard's overall readiness. Those units ordered to leave major equipment items in Iraq for follow-on forces usually returned home to empty motor pools and equipment sites. A number of governors complained that equipment demands from the Iraq War reduced the ability of Guard units remaining at home to meet state missions. In 2006 the National Guard admitted that equipment shortages slowed the deployment of 6,000 troops headed to the Southwest border to increase security there. Congress appropriated additional funds to meet equipping needs, but the challenge of replenishing equipment levels significantly

depleted by the Iraq War will probably persist for years to come.

The high casualties suffered in Iraq presented the Guard with circumstances and challenges not seen since World War II. Combat deaths are always tragic, drawing military units and families closer together. The loss of citizen-soldiers and the reports of their deaths in local newspapers and on television reminded citizens of the ties they enjoyed with National Guard units stationed in their own cities and towns. At the same time, the increasing death toll eroded public support for the war. By December 2008, a total of 468 Guard members had been killed in Iraq and another 4,008 wounded. Regardless of the social reactions to the war's death toll, the nation must continue to provide compensation and benefits for the dependents of those killed in action.[2]

The high casualties suffered in Iraq presented the Guard with circumstances and challenges not seen since World War II. . . . By December 2008, a total of 468 Guard members have been killed in Iraq and another 4,008 wounded.

A major challenge for the National Guard and the military at-large will be to provide the continuous physical and psychiatric care that the critically wounded require. Because of the unique nature of the IED weapon and the grevious wounds it inflicted, the veteran amputee has become a common sight within the military and society in numbers not seen since the American Civil War. Not only do the thousands of wounded require well deserved care, but the military will have to determine the right policies that will accommodate the appropriate degree of future service for the seriously wounded. In addition, the nation must provide quality care for all the wounded, whether their suffering be physical or psychological.

How is it possible that the National Guard has been able to participate so fully in the Iraq War from the very beginning? In simplest terms, the Total Force Policy proved effective in providing citizen-soldiers and airmen with adequate resources and training opportunities, even during the austere defense budgets and force structure reductions of the 1990s. In addition, Guard units were intimately involved with major joint exercises and deployed alongside active duty forces during the many contingency operations that followed the end of the Cold War. Starting in 2003, Guard units identified for deployment were adequately manned and received the equipment and training necessary to prepare them for battle. After nearly four years, that trend still continues. Once the Iraq War comes to an end, the senior Guard leadership must do all it can to ensure that units are sufficiently manned and that state soldiers receive the training and equipment needed to prepare them for future conflicts.

As this present volume goes to press, the Iraq War is about to enter its sixth year. While the war's final outcome is yet to be determined, it is certain that the National Guard's involvement will continue in Iraq until state troops are no longer needed. When that day finally comes, only then will historians be able to complete a full assessment of all that citizen-soldiers and airmen accomplished to help bring democracy to Iraq and lasting peace to its people.

The ARNG has played a central role in the war on terror by enabling the United States to direct its military power at the very heart of the enemy. An Army Guard Black Hawk sits on the ground in the shadow of Iraq's towering Hands of Victory monument in central Baghdad. (TX NG)

NOTES

[1] NGB, "Command Sgt. Major Gipe Visits Deployed Guardsmen," *On Guard*, May 2005, 6.

[2] DOD, Defense Manpower Data Center, Data, Analysis and Programs Division, "Global War on Terrorism: Casualties by Military Service Component—Active, Guard and Reserve, October 7, 2001 Through December 6, 2008." December 6, 2008. Located at http://siadapp.dmdc.osd.mil.

IN MEMORIAM

OPERATION IRAQI FREEDOM

13 MARCH 2003 - 19 JULY 2009

Rank	Name	Death	Hostile	Home of Record	State	Unit
PV2	ADAMS, ALGERNON	20031028		GRANITEVILLE	SC	CO C, 122D EN BN, SC ARNG
SFC	ADAMS, BRENT A.	20051201	H	WEST VIEW	PA	HHC, 2D BCT, PA ARNG
SSG	ADAMS, LEONARD W.	20050124		MOORESVILLE	NC	HHC, 105TH MP BN, NC ARNG
SGT	ADAMS, ROGER L. JR	20090629	H	JACKSONVILLE	NC	CO A, 1-120TH INF, NC ARNG
SGT	AKERS, SPENCER C.	20051208	H	TRAVERSE CITY	MI	CO B, 1-125TH INF, MI ARNG
SPC	AKINTADE, SEGUN F.	20041028	H	BROOKLYN	NY	CO A, 3-108TH INF, NY ARNG
SPC	ALGRIM, WILSON A.	20061223	H	HOWELL	MI	CO E, 1-125TH INF, MI ARNG
SPC	ALI, AZHAR	20050302	H	FLUSHING	NY	HHC, 1-69TH INF, NY ARNG
SGT	ALLEN, HOWARD PAUL	20050926	H	MESA	AZ	860TH MP CO, AZ ARNG
1LT	ALLEN, LOUIS EDWIN	20050608		MILFORD	PA	HHC, 42D ID, NY ARNG
SSG	ALLERS, WILLIAM A. III	20050920	H	LEITCHFIELD	KY	617TH MP CO, KY ARNG
SFC	ANDERSON, VICTOR A.	20050730	H	ELLAVILLE	GA	HHC, 2-121ST INF, GA ARNG
SPC	ANDRADE, MICHAEL	20030924		BRISTOL	RI	115TH MP CO, RI ARNG
SGT	ARNDT, TRAVIS MARK	20050921		BOZEMAN	MT	TRP E, 163D CAV, MT ARNG
SSG	ARNOLD, DANIEL L.	20050928	H	MONTROSE	PA	HHC, 1-109TH INF, PA ARNG
SSG	ARNOLD, LARRY R. SR	20050611	H	CARRIERE	MS	CO B, 150TH EN BN, MS ARNG
SSG	AULT, JESSE ADAM	20080409	H	DUBLIN	VA	CO E, 429TH SPT BN, VA ARNG
SSG	BABIN, CHRISTOPHER J.	20050106	H	HOUMA	LA	CO B, 2-156TH INF, LA ARNG
SFC	BACHMAN, TRAVIS S.	20070801	H	GARDEN CITY	KS	714TH MAINT CO, KS ARNG
SSG	BAILEY, NATHAN J.	20031112		NASHVILLE	TN	1175TH TRANS CO, TN ARNG
SPC	BAILEY, WILLIAM L. III	20070525	H	BELVUE	NE	755TH CHEM CO, NE ARNG
SGT	BAKER, RONALD W.	20041013	H	CABOT	AR	CO C, 39TH SPT BN, AR ARNG
SGT	BAKER, SHERWOOD R.	20040426	H	PLYMOUTH	PA	CO B, 2-103D AR, PA ARNG
SGT	BALDEOSINGH, JUAN C.	20090629	H	CARTERET	NC	CO A, 1-120TH INF, NC ARNG
1LT	BANASZAK, DEBRA A.	20051028		BLOOMINGTON	IL	1035TH MAINT CO, MO ARNG
SGT	BANKS, DEREK R.	20071114	H	NEWPORT NEWS	VA	237TH EN BN, VA ARNG
SGT	BARKEY, MICHAEL C.	20040707	H	CANAL FULTON	OH	1484TH TRANS CO, OH ARNG
1LT	BARNARD, LEEVI K.	20090521	H	MOUNT AIRY	NC	HHC, 1-252D AR, NC ARNG
1LT	BARNETT, CHRISTOPHER W.	20041223	H	BATON ROUGE	LA	HHC, 1-156TH AR, LA ARNG
SPC	BARRON, BRYAN E.	20050523	H	BILOXI	MS	CO C, 1-155TH INF, MS ARNG
SSG	BASHAM, ROBERT J.	20070414		KENOSHA	WI	BTY B, 1-161ST FA, KS ARNG
SGT	BATES, TODD M.	20031223		BELLAIRE	OH	135TH MP CO, OH ARNG
SSG	BAUM, MARK C.	20090221	H	TELFORD	PA	CO B, 1-111TH INF, PA ARNG
SGT	BEAN, ALAN N. JR	20040525	H	BRIDPORT	VT	HHB, 1-86TH FA, VT ARNG
SSG	BEERY, BROCK ALAN	20060323	H	WHITE HOUSE	TN	HHC, 2-123RD AR, KY ARNG
SGT	BEHNKE, JOSEPH OTTO	20041204		BROOKLYN	NY	BTY C, 1-258TH FA, NY ARNG
SGT	BELL, AUBREY DALE	20031027	H	TUSKEGEE	AL	214TH MP CO, AL ARNG
SSG	BENNETT, KEITH A.	20051211	H	HOLTWOOD	PA	28TH MP CO, 2D BCT, PA ARNG
SGT	BENSON, DARRY	20060827		GREENVILLE	NC	HHD, 730TH QM BN, NC ARNG
SGT	BERGERON, BRADLEY J.	20050106	H	HOUMA	LA	CO B, 2-156TH INF, LA ARNG
SFC	BERRY, DAVID R.	20070222	H	WICHITA	KS	BTY B, 1-161ST FA, KS ARNG
SSG	BERRY, SEAN B.	20051003		MANSFIELD	TX	HHC, 2-112TH AR, TX ARNG
SPC	BITTIKER, ROBERT L.	20090629	H	JACKSONVILLE	NC	CO A, 1-120TH INF, NC ARNG
SSG	BLAKLEY, RICHARD A.	20060606	H	PLAINFIELD	IN	738TH MED CO, IN ARNG
SGT	BOLES, DENNIS J.	20041024		HOMOSASSA	FL	CO C, 1-171ST AVN, FL ARNG
SFC	BOLING, CRAIG A.	20030708		ELKHART	IN	CO C, 1-152D INF, IN ARNG
SSG	BONIFACIO, JERRY L. JR	20051010	H	VACAVILLE	CA	CO B, 1-184TH INF, CA ARNG
SSG	BOOKER, DARRYL D.	20070120	H	MIDLOTHIAN	VA	29TH TAC CMD POST, VA ARNG

SPC	BOONE, CHRISTOPHER K.	20070217		AUGUSTA	GA	CO H (LRS), 121ST INF, GA ARNG
CPL	BOSWELL, SAMUEL M.	20051014		ELKRIDGE	MD	243D EN CO, MD ARNG
PFC	BOWEN, SAMUEL R.	20040707	H	CLEVELAND	OH	HSC, 216TH EN BN, OH ARNG
SSG	BOX, HESLEY JR	20040506	H	NASHVILLE	AR	CO B, 3-153RD INF, AR ARNG
SSG	BRANDON, STACEY C.	20040424	H	HAZEN	AR	HHC, 39TH SPT BN, AR ARNG
SPC	BRINLEE, KYLE A.	20040511	H	PRYOR	OK	B CO, 120TH EN BN, OK ARNG
SSG	BROOKS, CORY W.	20040424		PHILIP	SD	CO A, 153D EN BN, SD ARNG
SSG	BROOKS, PAUL F.	20090521	H	JOPLIN	MO	935TH AVN SPT BN, MO ARNG
SFC	BROWN, JOHN G.	20070120	H	LITTLE ROCK	AR	CO B, 1-185TH AVN, AR ARNG
SGT	BROWN, LERANDO J.	20080315		GULFPORT	MS	288TH EN CO, MS ARNG
PFC	BROWN, NATHAN P.	20040411	H	GLENS FALLS	NY	CO C, 2-108TH INF, NY ARNG
SPC	BROWN, OLIVER J.	20050928	H	ATHENS	PA	CO B, 1-109TH INF, PA ARNG
SPC	BROWN, PHILIP D.	20040508	H	JAMESTOWN	ND	CO B, 141ST EN BN, ND ARNG
SPC	BROWN, TIMOTHY D.	20051104	H	CEDAR SPRINGS	MI	CO B, 1-125TH INF, MI ARNG
SFC	BROZOVICH, DANIEL A.	20061018	H	GREENVILLE	PA	BTY C, 1-213TH ADA, PA ARNG
SPC	BRUNSON, JACQUES E.	20050724	H	AMERICUS	GA	CO A, 2-121ST INF, GA ARNG
SPC	BUECHE, PAUL J.	20031021		DAPHNE	AL	CO E, 1-131ST AVN, AL ARNG
CPL	BUIE, JIMMY D.	20050104	H	FLORAL	AR	CO B, 3-153D INF, AR ARNG
SPC	BURGESS, ALAN J.	20041015	H	LANDAFF	NH	HHB, 2-197TH FA, NH ARNG
SGT	BYERS, CASEY	20050611	H	COLORADO SPRINGS	CO	CO B, 224TH EN BN, IA ARNG
SGT	CALDWELL, CHARLES T.	20030901	H	ATTLEBORO	MA	115TH MP CO, RI ARNG
SFC	CAMARA, JOSEPH	20030901	H	NEW BEDFORD	MA	115TH MP CO, RI ARNG
1LT	CAMPBELL, JAIME L.	20060107		EPHRATA	WA	CO B, 1-207TH AVN, AK ARNG
LTC	CANEGATA, DAVID C. III	20070120	H	SAINT CROIX	VI	JFHQ, VI ARNG
SGT	CARIAGA, DEYSON K.	20050708	H	HONOLULU	HI	229TH MI CO, HI ARNG
SPC	CARLSON, FREDERICK A. IV	20060325		BETHLEHEM	PA	CO B, 228TH SPT BN, PA ARNG
SPC	CARRASQUILLO, JOCELYN L.	20040313	H	WRIGHTSVILLE BEACH	NC	HHC, 1-120TH INF, NC ARNG
SGT	CARROLL, JAMES D.	20050731	H	MCKENZIE	TN	CO A, 230TH EN BN, TN ARNG
SPC	CARVER, DANE O.	20051226	H	FREEPORT	MI	CO B, 1-125TH INF, MI ARNG
SSG	CARVILL, FRANK T.	20040604	H	CARLSTADT	NJ	BTY B, 3-112TH FA, NJ ARNG
SFC	CASE, VIRGIL RAY	20050601		MOUNTAIN HOME	ID	CO B, 145TH SPT BN, ID ARNG
CPT	CASH, CHRISTOPHER S.	20040624	H	WINTERVILLE	NC	CO A, 1-120TH INF, NC ARNG
CPL	CASTNER, STEPHEN W.	20060724	H	CEDARBURG	WI	BTY C, 1-121ST FA, WI ARNG
SGT	CAWVEY, JESSICA L.	20041006	H	NORMAL	IL	1544TH TRANS CO, IL ARNG
CPL	CEO, BERNARD L.	20051014		BALTIMORE	MD	243D EN CO, MD ARNG
SPC	CHANCE, JAMES A. III	20031106	H	KOKOMO	MS	CO C, 890TH EN BN, MS ARNG
SFC	CHANEY, WILLIAM D.	20040518		SCHAUMBURG	IL	CO B, 1-106TH AVN, IL ARNG
MSG	CHAPIN, CHRIS S.	20050823	H	RUTLAND	VT	HHC, 1-172D AR, VT ARNG
SGT	CLARY, DON A.	20041108	H	TROY	KS	BTY B, 2-130TH FA, KS ARNG
SGT	CLAY, JAMES M.	20081113		MOUNTAIN HOME	AR	CO B, 2-153D INF, AR ARNG
SSG	CLEMONS, THOMAS W.	20061211		LEITCHFIELD	KY	CO B, 2-123D AR, KY ARNG
SGT	COLLIER, RUSSELL LEE	20041003	H	HARRISON	AR	HHB, 5-206TH FA, AR ARNG
SFC	COMEAUX, KURT J.	20050106	H	RACELAND	LA	B CO, 2-156 INF, LA ARNG
SPC	COMETA, ANTHONY S.	20050616		LAS VEGAS	NV	1864TH TRANS CO, NV ARNG
SGT	CONNER, BRIAN R.	20051014		BALTIMORE	MD	243D EN CO, MD ARNG
MSG	COOLEY, SEAN M.	20050203	H	OCEAN SPRINGS	MS	CO B, 150TH EN BN, MS ARNG
SSG	COOPER, TRAVIS S.	20050716	H	MACON	MS	HHB, 2-114TH FA, MS ARNG
SGT	CORNIEL, MARCELINO R.	20051231	H	LA PUENTE	CA	CO D, 1-184TH INF, CA ARNG
SFC	CRABTREE, DANIEL B.	20060608	H	AKRON	OH	CO B, 2-19TH SF GP, OH ARNG
MSG	CUBERT, CLINTON W.	20060416	H	LAWRENCEBURG	KY	2113TH TRANS CO, KY ARNG
SSG	CUKA, DANIEL M.	20051204	H	YANKTON	SD	BTY C, 1-147TH FA, SD ARNG
SGT	CURRAN, CARL F. II	20040517	H	UNION CITY	PA	BTY C, 1-107TH FA, PA ARNG
SGT	DAVILA, JESSIE	20060220	H	GREENSBURG	KS	CO A, 2-137TH FA, KS ARNG
SPC	DAVIS, DARYL A.	20041129		ORLANDO	FL	144TH TRANS CO, FL ARNG
SSG	DAVIS, KEVIN D.	20050408	H	LEBANON	OR	TRP G, 1-82D CAV, OR ARNG
SPC	DAVIS, RAPHAEL S.	20031202	H	TUTWILER	MS	CO B, 223RD EN BN, MS ARNG
SSG	DAY, DAVID F.	20050221	H	ST LOUIS PARK	MN	BTY C, 1-151ST FA, MN ARNG
PFC	DEARING, JOHN W.	20051121	H	HAZEL PARK	MI	CO B, 1-125TH INF, MI ARNG
SGT	DEBRO, GERMAINE L.	20060904	H	OMAHA	NE	TRP B, 1-167TH CAV, NE ARNG
SGT	DELGRECO, FELIX M. JR	20040409	H	SIMSBURY	CT	CO C, 1-102ND INF, CT ARNG
SGT	DELOACH, JERRY L.	20070707		JACKSON	GA	1230TH TRANS CO, GA ARNG
SPC	DENT, DARRYL T.	20030826		WASHINGTON	DC	547TH TRANS CO, DC ARNG
SPC	DESENS, DANIEL A. JR	20040624	H	JACKSONVILLE	NC	CO A, 1-120TH INF, NC ARNG

PFC	DETAMPLE, NATHANIEL E.	20050809	H	MORRISVILLE	PA	CO A, 1-111TH INF, PA ARNG
SPC	DINGLER, JOSHUA P.	20050815		HIRAM	GA	HHC, 1-108TH AR, GA ARNG
SGT	DODSON, PHILIP A. JR	20051202		FORSYTH	GA	HHC, 148TH SPT BN, GA ARNG
SGT	DOLTZ, RYAN E.	20040605	H	MINE HILL	NJ	BTY B, 3-112TH FA, NJ ARNG
1LT	DOOLEY, MARK H.	20050919	H	WALLKILL	NY	CO A, 3-172D INF, VT ARNG
SGT	DOSTIE, THOMAS J.	20041221	H	SOMERVILLE	ME	HSC, 133RD EN BN, ME ARNG
SSG	DRAUGHN, GEORGE R. JR	20050901	H	DECATUR	GA	TRP E, 108TH CAV, GA ARNG
SSG	DREASKY, DUANE J.	20060710	H	NOVI	MI	HHB, 1-119TH FA, MI ARNG
SPC	DREVNICK, DANIEL P.	20090716	H	WOODBURY	MN	34TH MP CO, MN ARNG
SPC	DUFFY, CHRISTOPHER M.	20040604	H	MOUNT PLEASANT	NJ	BTY B, 3-112TH FA, NJ ARNG
SGT	DUPLANTIER, ARNOLD II	20050622	H	SACRAMENTO	CA	CO C, 1-184TH INF, CA ARNG
SGT	EAKES, LANCE O.	20080418	H	APEX	NC	1132D MP CO, NC ARNG
SPC	EDMUNDSON, CHAD A.	20090527	H	WILLIAMSBURG	PA	CO B, 2-112TH INF, PA ARNG
SFC	EDWARDS, AMOS C. JR	20060217		SAVANNAH	GA	BTY B, 1-118TH FA, GA ARNG
CW2	EDWARDS, CORRY A.	20080917		KENNEDALE	TX	CO B, 2-149TH AVN, TX ARNG
SFC	EDWARDS, MARK O.	20050609		UNICOI	TN	CO H, 2-278TH ACR, TN ARNG
SPC	EDWARDS, MICHAEL I.	20060107		FAIRBANKS	AK	CO B, 1-207TH AVN, AK ARNG
SGT	EGAN, MICHAEL	20050919	H	PHILADELPHIA	PA	HHT, 1-104TH CAV, PA ARNG
1LT	EMMERT, WILLIAM E.	20090224	H	LINCOLN	TN	269TH MP CO, TN ARNG
SSG	ENGELDRUM, CHRISTIAN P.	20041129	H	BRONX	NY	CO A, 1-69TH INF, NY ARNG
SGT	ESHBAUGH, DANIEL M.	20080917		NORMAN	OK	CO B, 2-149TH AVN, TX ARNG
CPT	ESPOSITO, PHILLIP T.	20050608		SUFFERN	NY	HHC, 42D ID, NY ARNG
SGT	EVANS, MICHAEL S. II	20050128	H	MARRERO	LA	CO B, 1088TH EN BN, LA ARNG
SPC	EVANS, WILLIAM LEE	20050919	H	HALLSTEAD	PA	CO B, 1-109TH INF, PA ARNG
SSG	EVERETT, CHRISTOPHER L.	20050907		HUNTSVILLE	TX	CO B, 2-112TH AR, TX ARNG
SGT	EYERLY, JUSTIN LYNN	20040604	H	PORTLAND	OR	CO D, 2-162D INF, OR ARNG
SGT	FASSBENDER, HUEY P. L. III	20050106	H	LA PLACE	LA	B CO, 2-156TH INF, LA ARNG
CPT	FELDER, ARTHUR L.	20040424	H	NORTH LITTLE ROCK	AR	HHC, 39TH SPT BN, AR ARNG
SGT	FELL, ROBIN VINCENT	20050519	H	SHREVEPORT	LA	CO C, 1-156TH AR, LA ARNG
SGT	FERNANDEZ, WILLIAM V.	20050919	H	READING	PA	TRP B, 1-104TH CAV, PA ARNG
SPC	FETTIG, JON PAUL	20030722	H	DICKINSON	ND	957TH EN CO, ND ARNG
SGT	FICEK, DAMIEN T.	20041230	H	BEAVERTON	OR	CO C, 1-161ST INF, WA ARNG
SGT	FINCH, COURTNEY D.	20070724		LEAVENWORTH	KS	714TH MAINT CO, KS ARNG
SSG	FISCHER, JEREMY J.	20040711	H	LINCOLN	NE	267TH ORD CO, NE ARNG
SGT	FISHER, DAVID M.	20041201		WATERVLIET	NY	CO D, 1-210TH AR, NY ARNG
SGT	FISHER, PAUL F.	20031106	H	CEDAR RAPIDS	IA	CO F, 1-106TH AVN, IA ARNG
SFC	FOLKS, TOMMY I. JR	20051019	H	AMARILLO	TX	CO A, 2-142D INF, TX ARNG
SGT	FORD, JOSEPH A.	20080510		KNOX	IN	CO B, 1-152D CAV, IN ARNG
SGT	FORD, JOSHUA A.	20060731	H	WAYNE	NE	189TH TRANS CO, NE ARNG
SGT	FRANK, CRAIG S.	20040717	H	LINCOLN PARK	MI	1775TH MP CO, MI ARNG
SSG	FRANKLIN, BOBBY C.	20030820	H	MINERAL BLUFF	GA	210TH MP CO, NC ARNG
CPL	FRENCH, CARRIE L.	20050605	H	CALDWELL	ID	CO B, 145TH SPT BN, ID ARNG
SGT	FRICKEY, ARMAND L.	20050106	H	NOBLESVILLE	IN	CO B, 2-156TH INF, LA ARNG
SSG	FULLER, CARL RAY	20050724	H	COVINGTON	GA	CO A, 2-121ST INF, GA ARNG
SGT	FUTRELL, MARCUS S.	20051202		MACON	GA	HHC, 148TH SPT BN, GA ARNG
CSM	GABBARD, MARILYN L.	20070120	H	POLK CITY	IA	JFHQ, IA ARNG
SGT	GANEY, JERRY L. JR	20050803	H	FOLKSTON	GA	CO C, 648TH EN BN, GA ARNG
SGT	GARCEAU, SETH K.	20050304	H	OELWEIN	IA	CO A, 224TH EN BN, IA ARNG
SPC	GARCES, TOMAS	20040906	H	WESLACO	TX	1836TH TRANS CO, TX ARNG
SGT	GARRISON, LANDIS W.	20040429		RAPIDS CITY	IL	333D MP CO, IL ARNG
PFC	GAYLORD, ALVA L.	20060505	H	CARROLLTON	MO	CO C, 110TH EN BN, MO ARNG
SGT	GELINEAU, CHRISTOPHER D.	20040420	H	PORTLAND	ME	HSC, 133D EN BN, ME ARNG
SPC	GIBBS, MATHEW V.	20050803	H	AMBROSE	GA	HHC, 648TH EN BN, GA ARNG
2LT	GIENAU, RICHARD B.	20050227	H	WATERLOO	IA	CO A , 224TH EN BN, IA ARNG
SSG	GILLICAN, CHARLES C. III	20050514		BRUNSWICK	GA	SVC BTY, 1-118TH FA, GA ARNG
SGT	GILMORE, TERRELL W.	20080330	H	BATON ROUGE	LA	FWD SPT CO, 769TH EN BN, LA ARNG
SGT	GODBOLT, LEE M.	20050326	H	NEW ORLEANS	LA	HHB, 1-141ST FA, LA ARNG
SPC	GOWARD, RICHARD A.	20030414		MIDLAND	MI	1460TH TRANS CO, MI ARNG
SSG	GRAHAM, SHAWN A.	20050925		RED OAK	TX	TRP H, 1-124TH CAV, TX ARNG
SSG	GRAY, JAMIE A.	20040607	H	MONTPELIER	VT	HHB, 1-86TH FA, VT ARNG
SPC	GRIJALVA, JAMES T.	20051012		BURBANK	IL	HHC, 2-130TH INF, IL ARNG
SGT	GUY, SHAKERE T.	20051029	H	POMONA	CA	CO D, 1-184TH INF, CA ARNG
SGT	HAGGIN, JONATHON C.	20050730	H	KINGSLAND	GA	CO A, 2-121ST INF, GA ARNG

SFC	HAHN, PETER J.	20050524	H	METAIRIE	LA	CO B, 2-156TH INF, LA ARNG
CSM	HALLER, ROGER W.	20070120	H	DAVIDSONVILLE	MD	HQ, 70TH REGIMENT, RTI, MD ARNG
SSG	HANSEN, JEFFREY J.	20060827		CAIRO	NE	HHT, 1-167TH CAV, NE ARNG
SGT	HANSON, JOSHUA R.	20060830	H	WEST SAINT PAUL	MN	CO A, 2-136TH INF, MN ARNG
SSG	HAWN, ASBURY F. II	20050814	H	LEBANON	TN	TRP I, 3-278TH ACR, TN ARNG
SPC	HAYES, MICHAEL R.	20050614	H	MORGANTOWN	KY	617TH MP CO, KY ARNG
SGT	HELTZEL, PAUL M.	20050315	H	BATON ROUGE	LA	CO B, 2-156TH INF, LA ARNG
1LT	HENDERSON, ROBERT L. II	20040417	H	ALVATON	KY	2123D TRANS CO, KY ARNG
SSG	HENDRICKSON, KENNETH W.	20040124	H	BISMARCK	ND	957TH EN CO, ND ARNG
SGT	HENRY, GARY M.	20080804	H	INDIANAPOLIS	IN	38TH MP CO, IN ARNG
SPC	HERMANSON, MICHAEL L.	20060524	H	FARGO	ND	CO A, 164TH EN BN, ND ARNG
CPT	HILL, RAYMOND D. II	20051029	H	TURLOCK	CA	HHC, 1-184TH INF, CA ARNG
SGT	HODGE, JEREMY M.	20051010	H	RIDGEWAY	OH	CO B, 612TH EN BN, OH ARNG
SGT	HOLKE, ERIC M.	20070715		RIVERSIDE	CA	CO A, 1-160TH INF, CA ARNG
SFC	HOLLAR, ROBERT L. JR	20050901	H	GRIFFIN	GA	TRP E, 108TH CAV, GA ARNG
SPC	HOLMES, JAMES JAY	20040508	H	EAST GRAND FORKS	MN	CO B, 141ST EN BN, ND ARNG
SGT	HOLMES, JEREMIAH J.	20040329	H	NORTH BERWICK	ME	744TH TRANS CO, NH ARNG
SGT	HORNEDO, MANNY	20050628	H	BROOKLYN	NY	1569TH TRANS CO, NY ARNG
SGT	HOUSBY, JESSICA M.	20050209	H	ROCK ISLAND	IL	1644TH TRANS CO, IL ARNG
SPC	HOYT, ROBERT W.	20041211	H	ASHFORD	CT	CO C, 1-102D INF, CT ARNG
SGT	HUGHES, JONATHAN A.	20050319	H	LEBANON	KY	BTY B, 1-623D FA, KY ARNG
SGT	HUNT, JOSEPH D.	20050822	H	SWEETWATER	TN	HWB, 3-278TH CAV, TN ARNG
MSG	INGLES-RIOS, JULIAN	20070802	H	ANASCO	PR	CO A, 130TH EN BN, PR ARNG
SSG	IRIZARRY, HENRY E.	20041203	H	WATERBURY	CT	HHC, 1-69TH INF, NY ARNG
SGT	ISENBERG, BENJAMIN W.	20040913	H	RICKREALL	OR	CO B, 2-162D INF, OR ARNG
SFC	JAMESON, TRICIA L.	20050714	H	OMAHA	NE	313TH MED CO, NE ARNG
SGT	JEFFCOAT, BRAHIM J.	20050806	H	PHILADELPHIA	PA	CO A, 1-111TH INF, PA ARNG
SPC	JEFFRIES, WILLIAM A.	20030331		EVANSVILLE	IN	CO D, 1-152D INF, IN ARNG
SGT	JOHNSON, DAVID W.	20040925	H	PORTLAND	OR	HHC, 2-162D INF, OR ARNG
SGT	JOHNSON, JOSHUA A.	20060125	H	RICHFORD	VT	CO A, 3-172D INF, VT ARNG
SFC	JONES, CHARLES J.	20060920		LAWRENCEBURG	KY	HHC, 1-149TH INF, KY ARNG
SSG	JONES, DAVID R. SR	20050730	H	AUGUSTA	GA	248TH MI CO, GA ARNG
SGT	JOPEK, RYAN D.	20060802	H	MERRILL	WI	CO A, 2-127TH INF, WI ARNG
SGT	KALLADEEN, ANTHONY N.	20050808	H	PURCHASE	NY	CO B, 1-69TH INF, NY ARNG
SPC	KAMOLVATHIN, ALAIN L.	20050116		BLAIRSTOWN	NJ	CO A, 1-69TH INF, NY ARNG
SPC	KASECKY, MARK J.	20040517	H	MCKEES ROCKS	PA	BTY C, 1-107TH FA, PA ARNG
SSG	KASSON, DARREL D.	20070304	H	FLORENCE	AZ	259TH EN CO, AZ ARNG
SPC	KAUFMAN, CHARLES A.	20050626	H	FAIRCHILD	WI	CO C, 1-128TH INF, WI ARNG
SSG	KELLY, DALE JAMES	20060506	H	RICHMOND	ME	CO B, 3-172D INF, ME ARNG
COL	KELLY, PAUL M.	20070120	H	STAFFORD	VA	JFHQ, VA ARNG
SFC	KENNEDY, STEPHEN C.	20050404	H	OAK RIDGE	TN	TRP D, 1-278TH ACR, TN ARNG
SSG	KIEFFER, RICKY A.	20050315	H	OVID	MI	HHB, 1-182D FA, MI ARNG
SSG	KING, BRADLEY D.	20070402	H	LA FONTAINE	IN	HHC, 2-152D INF, IN ARNG
SGT	KINLOW, JAMES O.	20050724	H	THOMSON	GA	CO A, 2-121ST INF, GA ARNG
PFC	KIRCHHOFF, DAVID M.	20030814		CEDAR RAPIDS	IA	2133D TRANS CO, IA ARNG
SGT	KISER, TIMOTHY C.	20050428	H	TEHAMA	CA	HHD, 340TH SPT BN, CA ARNG
SGT	KLASNO, RHYS W.	20070513	H	RIVERSIDE	CA	1114TH TRANS CO, CA ARNG
SGT	KNIGHTEN, FLOYD G. JR	20030809		OLLA	LA	1087TH TRANS CO, LA ARNG
SPC	KNOWLES, JOSHUA L.	20040205	H	SHEFFIELD	IA	1133TH TRANS CO, IA ARNG
SGT	KOCH, BRENT W.	20060616	H	MORTON	MN	CO E, 2-136TH INF, MN ARNG
SSG	KOENIG, LANCE J.	20040922	H	FARGO	ND	CO B, 141ST EN BN, ND ARNG
SGT	KOKESH, ALLEN D. JR	20060207	H	YANKTON	SD	BTY C, 1-147TH FA, SD ARNG
CW4	KORDSMEIER, PATRICK W.	20040424	H	NORTH LITTLE ROCK	AR	HHC, 39TH SPT BN, AR ARNG
SFC	KRAMER, EDWARD C.	20090629	H	WILMINGON	NC	CO A, 1-120TH INF, NC ARNG
SPC	KROUT, KURT ERIC	20050806	H	LANSDALE	PA	CO A, 1-111TH INF, PA ARNG
SPC	KULICK, JOHN	20050809	H	HARLEYSVILLE	PA	CO A, 1-111TH INF, PA ARNG
SFC	LABADIE, WILLIAM W. JR	20040407	H	BAUXITE	AR	TRP E, 151ST CAV, AR ARNG
SGT	LADD, JOSHUA SHANE	20040501	H	PORT GIBSON	MS	367TH MAINT CO, MS ARNG
SGT	LAIRD, DUSTIN D.	20060802	H	MARTIN	TN	913TH EN CO, TN ARNG
SFC	LAKE, FLOYD E. SR	20070120	H	SAINT THOMAS	VI	JFHQ, VI ARNG
SPC	LAMB, CHARLES R.	20040905	H	CASEY	IL	1544TH TRANS CO, IL ARNG
SGT	LAMBERT, DAVID E.	20071026	H	CEDAR BLUFF	VA	237TH EN CO, VA ARNG
SGT	LANNAMAN, DENISE A.	20061001		BAYSIDE	NY	HHC, 1569TH TRANS CO, NY ARNG

SFC	LAWSON, ISAAC S.	20060605	H	SACRAMENTO	CA	HHC, 49TH MP BDE, CA ARNG
CW4	LEACH, PATRICK D.	20041209		ROCK HILL	SC	CO A, 1-151ST AVN, SC ARNG
SGT	LEE, TERRANCE D. SR	20050611	H	MOSS POINT	MS	CO B, 150TH EN BN, MS ARNG
SPC	LEISTEN, KEN W.	20040728	H	CORNELIUS	OR	CO B, 2-162D INF, OR ARNG
SSG	LEMON, JEROME	20041027	H	NORTH CHARLESTON	SC	1052D TRANS. CO, SC ARNG
SGT	LHOTKA, JESSE M.	20050221	H	ALEXANDRIA	MN	BTY C, 1-151ST FA, MN ARNG
SSG	LIEURANCE, VICTOIR P.	20050822	H	SEYMOUR	TN	HWB, 3-278TH ACR, TN ARNG
SFC	LIGHTNER, DANIEL R. JR	20051027	H	HOLLIDAYSBURG	PA	HHC, 2D BCT, PA ARNG
SPC	LINDEN, JUSTIN W.	20040604	H	PORTLAND	OR	CO D, 2-162D INF, OR ARNG
SSG	LITTLE, TOMMY S.	20050502	H	ALICEVILLE	AL	BTY A, 2-114TH FA, AL ARNG
SSG	LOYD, DAVID L.	20030805		JACKSON	TN	1175TH TRANS CO, TN ARNG
SGT	LOZA, CHRISTOPHER D.	20090410		ABILENE	TX	TRP A. 1-124TH CAV. TX ARNG
CPT	LUCERO, ROBERT L.	20030925		CASPER	WY	4TH ID REAR AREA OPS CENTER, WY ARNG
SGT	LUNSFORD, AUDREY D.	20050523	H	SARDIS	MS	HHC, 1-155TH INF, MS ARNG
SGT	LUTTERS, DERRICK J.	20050501	H	BURLINGTON	CO	CO A, 891ST EN BN, KS ARNG
SPC	LWIN, WAI PHYO	20050302	H	QUEENS	NY	HHC, 1-69TH INF, NY ARNG
CPT	LYERLY, SEAN E.	20070120	H	PFLUGERVILLE	TX	HHC, 36TH AVN BDE, TX ARNG
SSG	MADDIES, STEPHEN R.	20070731	H	ELIZABETHTON	TN	HHD, 473D QM BN, TN ARNG
SSG	MANUEL, WILLIAM F.	20050110	H	KINDER	LA	CO C, 3-156th INF, LA ARNG
SGT	MARCUM, JOSHUA S.	20050104	H	EVENING SHADE	AR	CO B, 2-153D INF, AR ARNG
SPC	MARESH, JEREMY E.	20070424		JIM THORPE	PA	BTY C, 1-213TH ADA, PA ARNG
PFC	MARION, ADAM LEE	20080428	H	MOUNT AIRY	NC	171ST EN CO, NC ARNG
SPC	MARTIN, RYAN A.	20040820	H	MOUNT VERNON	OH	CO B, 216TH EN BN, OH ARNG
SSG	MASON, ANTHONY L.	20080917		SPRINGTOWN	TX	CO B, 2-149TH AVN, TX ARNG
SGT	MASON, NICHOLAS C.	20041221	H	KING GEORGE	VA	CO C, 276TH EN BN, VA ARNG
SGT	MASSEY, JOHN RAY	20070715	H	HIGGINSON	AR	BTY C, 2-142D FA, AR ARNG
SGT	MATHENY, RANDY J.	20070204	H	MCCOOK	NE	1074TH TRANS CO, NE ARNG
SGT	MCCAFFREY, PATRICK R. SR	20040622	H	TRACY	CA	CO A, 579TH EN BN, CA ARNG
SFC	MCCAULLEY, RANDY D.	20060323	H	INDIANA	PA	CO A, 1-110TH INF, PA ARNG
1LT	MCCRAE, ERIK S.	20040604	H	TIGARD	OR	CO D, 2-162D INF, OR ARNG
SPC	MCCUNE, DONALD R. II	20040805	H	YPLSILANTI	MI	CO C, 1-161ST INF, WA ARNG
SGT	MCDONOUGH, BRYAN T.	20061202	H	MAPLEWOOD	MN	CO B, 2-136TH INF, MN ARNG
SSG	MCGEE, JOHN E.	20050502	H	COLUMBUS	GA	2101ST TRANS CO, AL ARNG
SPC	MCHALFFEY, JEREMY W.	20050104	H	MABLEVALE	AR	HHC, 39TH INF BDE, AR ARNG
SPC	MCKINLEY, ERIC S.	20040613	H	CORVALLIS	OR	CO B, 2-162ND INF, OR ARNG
LTC	MCLAUGHLIN, MICHAEL E.	20060105	H	MERCER	PA	HHC, 2D BCT, PA ARNG
SGT	MCLAUGHLIN, SCOTT P.	20050922	H	HARDWICK	VT	HHC, 1-172D AR, VT ARNG
SGT	MCMILLIN, HEATH A.	20030727	H	CANANDAIGUA	NY	105TH MP CO, NY ARNG
SSG	MCMULLEN, MICHAEL J.	20060110	H	SALISBURY	MD	243D EN CO, MD ARNG
SGT	MCNAIL, ROBERT A.	20050211		MERIDIAN	MS	CO B, 150TH EN BN, MS ARNG
MSG	MCNARY, ROBBIE D.	20050331	H	LEWISTOWN	MT	CO C, 1-163D INF, MT ARNG
SSG	MCNEAL, JEREMIAH E.	20080406	H	NORFOLK	VA	237TH EN CO, VA ARNG
SPC	MEJIA, BOBBY II	20061223	H	SAGINAW	MI	CO E, 1-125TH INF, MI ARNG
SPC	MELCHER, MARK W.	20060415	H	PITTSBURGH	PA	CO A, 1-109TH INF, PA ARNG
SPC	MELSON, JACOB E.	20060107		WASILLA	AK	CO B, 1-207TH AVN, AK ARNG
SPC	MELTON, KENNETH A.	20040425	H	PLEASANT PLAINS	AR	CO B, 3-153RD INF, AR ARNG
SPC	MENKE, JONATHAN D.	20080804	H	MADISON	IN	38TH MP CO, IN ARNG
SSG	MERCER, CHAD M.	20050630		WAYCROSS	GA	CO B, 2-121ST INF, GA ARNG
SPC	MERCHANT, CHRISTOPHER S.	20060301	H	HARDWICK	VT	CO A, 3-172D INF, VT ARNG
SSG	MERCK, DENNIS P.	20051020		EVANS	GA	CO B, 878TH EN BN, GA ARNG
SGM	METTILLE, MICHAEL C.	20070201		WEST SAINT PAUL	MN	CO A, 134TH SPT BN, MN ARNG
SPC	MIHALAKIS, MICHAEL G.	20031226		SAN JOSE	CA	270TH MP CO, CA ARNG
SSG	MILLER, BRIAN K.	20080802		PENDLETON	IN	CO D, 1- 293D INF, IN ARNG
SGT	MILLER, JOHN WAYNE	20050412	H	WEST BURLINGTON	IA	CO A, 224TH EN BN, IA ARNG
SGT	MILLER, KYLE R.	20060629	H	WILLMAR	MN	HHB, 1-125TH FA, MN ARNG
CPT	MILLER, LOWELL T. II	20050831	H	FLINT	MI	HHC, 1-155TH INF, MS ARNG
SGT	MILLER, MARCO L.	20061205	H	LONGWOOD	FL	CO D, 3-20TH SF GP, FL ARNG
SFC	MIRANDA, TROY L.	20040520	H	LITTLE ROCK	AR	CO C, 1-153D INF, AR ARNG
SGT	MONTGOMERY, RYAN J.	20050703	H	GREENSBURG	KY	BTY B, 1-623D FA, KY ARNG
SGT	MORGAIN, CARL J.	20050522	H	BUTLER	PA	CO A, 1-112TH INF, PA ARNG
SGT	MORGAN, DENNIS B.	20040417	H	VALENTINE	NE	CO A, 153D EN BN, SD ARNG
SGT	MORIN, STEVE JR	20050928	H	ARLINGTON	TX	CO B, 11TH EN BN, TX ARNG
SGT	MORRISON, SHAWNA M.	20040905	H	CHAMPAIGN	IL	1544TH TRANS CO, IL ARNG

SPC	MOXLEY, CLIFFORD L. JR	20040925		BERWICK	PA	CO C, 2-103D AR, PA ARNG
SGT	MURPHY, WARREN A.	20050106	H	MARRERO	LA	CO B, 2-156TH INF, LA ARNG
SGT	MURRAY, DAVID J.	20050609	H	CLINTON	LA	CO B, 1088TH EN BN, LA ARNG
SPC	NAKIS, NATHAN W.	20031216		SEDRO WOOLLEY	WA	CO B, 52D EN BN, OR ARNG
MSG	NASEMAN, BRIAN K.	20090522		NEW BREMEN	OH	108TH FWD SPT CO, WI ARNG
SGT	NELSON, CRAIG L.	20041229	H	BOSSIER CITY	LA	HHC, 1-156TH AR, LA ARNG
SSG	NEUBAUER, PAUL C.	20050923	H	OCEANSIDE	CA	CO D, 1-184TH INF, CA ARNG
SPC	NEUSCHE, JOSHUA M.	20030712		MONTREAL	MO	203D EN BN, MO ARNG
SFC	NISELY, SCOTT E.	20060930	H	MARSHALLTOWN	IA	CO C, 1-133D INF, IA ARNG
SGT	NORMANDY, WILLIAM J.	20040315		MONTPELIER	VT	HHB, 1-86TH FA, VT ARNG
SPC	OBAJI, FRANCIS C.	20050117		QUEENS VILLAGE	NY	CO A, 1-69TH INF, NY ARNG
SSG	OGBURN, JOHN B. III	20050522		FRUITLAND	ID	CO A, 3-116TH ACR, OR ARNG
SSG	OLIVIER, NICHOLAS J.	20050223	H	JACKSON	MS	CO B, 3-156TH INF, LA ARNG
SSG	OLSON, TODD D.	20041227	H	LOYAL	WI	CO C, 1-128TH INF, WI ARNG
1LT	ONETO-SIKORSKI, ROBERT C.	20051031	H	BAY ST. LOUIS	MS	CO C, 1-155TH INF, MS ARNG
SGM	ORDONEZ, JULIO C.	20080917		SAN ANTONIO	TX	CO B, 2-149TH AVN, TX ARNG
SPC	ORENGO, RICHARD P.	20030626	H	TOA ALTA	PR	75TH MP CO, PR ARNG
SSG	ORTON, BILLY JOE	20040424	H	HUMNOKE	AR	HHC, 39TH SPT BN, AR ARNG
SGT	OSBEY, TIMOTHY R.	20050216		MAGNOLIA	MS	HHC, 1-155TH INF, MS ARNG
SSG	OSTROM, RYAN S.	20050809	H	LIBERTY	PA	CO B, 1-109TH INF, PA ARNG
SFC	OTTOLIN, MICHAEL C.	20041110	H	SEBASTOPOL	CA	CO A, 579TH EN BN, CA ARNG
SSG	PABLA, PAUL S.	20060703	H	FORT WAYNE	IN	HHB, 2-150TH FA, IN ARNG
SGT	PARKER, RICHARD K.	20070614	H	PHILLIPS	ME	BTY A, 1-121ST FA, ME ARNG
SFC	PARKER, SABURANT	20050523	H	FOXWORTH	MS	CO C, 1-155TH INF, MS ARNG
SSG	PARRISH, LAWRENCE L.	20061007	H	LEBANON	MO	HHC, 110TH EN BN, MO ARNG
SFC	PARROTT, MICHAEL C.	20051110	H	TIMNATH	CO	CO A, 1-110TH INF, PA ARNG
SPC	PELLEGRINI, GENNARO JR	20050809	H	PHILADELPHIA	PA	CO A, 1-111TH INF, PA ARNG
SSG	PERRY, DAVID SCOTT	20030811	H	BAKERSFIELD	CA	649TH MP CO, CA ARNG
PFC	PHILLIPS, SAMMIE E.	20070910		CECILIA	KY	BTY B, 2-138TH FA, KY ARNG
SSG	PHIPPS, IVORY LEE	20040317	H	CHICAGO	IL	1544TH TRANS CO, IL ARNG
SSG	PICKETT, EMANUEL	20080406	H	TEACHEY	NC	1132D MP CO, NC ARNG
CW2	PILLEN, PAUL JARED	20051018		KEYSTONE	SD	CO A, 1-249TH AVN, SD ARNG
SGT	PINKSTON, FOSTER	20030916		WARRENTON	GA	HSC, 878TH EN BN, GA ARNG
SPC	PLOWMAN, DEREK J.	20060720		EVERTON	AR	BTY C, 1-142D FA, AR ARNG
SPC	POLLINI, MATTHEW M.	20090122		ROCKLAND	MA	772D MP CO, MA ARNG
SGT	POTTER, DARRIN K.	20030930	H	LOUISVILLE	KY	223D MP CO, KY ARNG
SSG	POTTS, CHRISTOPHER S.	20041003	H	TIVERTON	RI	BTY A, 1-103D FA, RI ARNG
SSG	POULIN, LYNN R. SR	20041221	H	FREEDOM	ME	CO A, 133D EN BN, ME ARNG
SFC	PRATT, DANIEL J.	20051103		YOUNGSTOWN	OH	211TH MAINT CO, OH ARNG
SFC	PRIESTAP, JAMES D.	20061123	H	HARDWOOD	MI	46TH MP CO, MI ARNG
2LT	PROCOPIO, MARK J.	20051102	H	STOWE	VT	CO A, 3-172D INF, VT ARNG
SGT	PROCTOR, JOSEPH E.	20060503	H	INDIANAPOLIS	IN	HHC,1-172D AR, VT ARNG
SGT	PUGH, ROBERT S.	20050302	H	MERIDIAN	MS	HHC, 1-155TH INF, MS ARNG
SFC	PUGLIESE, GEORGE A.	20050928	H	CARBONDALE	PA	CO B, 1-109TH INF, PA ARNG
SGT	RAHAIM, JOSEPH A.	20050216		MAGNOLIA	MS	CO A, 1-155TH INF, MS ARNG
SPC	RAMIREZ, ERIC U.	20040212	H	SAN DIEGO	CA	1544TH TRANS CO, IL ARNG
SPC	RAMSEY, BRANDON	20030808		CALUMET CITY	IL	933D MP CO, IL ARNG
SGT	RAMSEY, CHRISTOPHER J.	20050128	H	BATCHELOR	LA	CO B, 1088TH EN BN, LA ARNG
SSG	RANGEL, JOSE C.	20050123		FRESNO	CA	1106TH AVN CLS RPR ACT DEPOT, CA ARN
SGT	RAY, THOMAS C. II	20080322	H	WEAVERVILLE	NC	1132D MP CO, NC ARNG
SSG	REED, JONATHAN R.	20050128	H	OPELOUSAS	LA	CO B, 1088TH EN BN, LA ARNG
SSG	REESE, AARON T.	20031211		REYNOLDSBURG	OH	135TH MP CO, OH ARNG
SGT	REESE, GARY L. JR	20050814	H	ASHLAND CITY	TN	TRP M, 3-278TH CAV, TN ARNG
SGT	REYES, LUIS R.	20051118		AURORA	CO	947TH EN CO, CO ARNG
SPC	RIDLEN, JEREMY L.	20040523	H	MAROA	IL	1544TH TRANS CO, IL ARNG
SGT	RIEKENA, JAMES D.	20070114	H	REDMOND	WA	CO A, 145TH SPT BN, ID ARNG
SGT	RIEWER, GREG N.	20070323	H	FRAZEE	MN	CO A, 2-136TH INF, MN ARNG
PFC	RIOS, HERNANDO	20050808	H	QUEENS	NY	CO B, 1-69TH INF, NY ARNG
SSG	RIVERA-VARGAS, MILTON	20051208		BOQUERON	PR	CO B, 1-296TH INF, PR ARNG
CPL	RIVERO, JOHN T.	20030417		TAMPA	FL	CO D 2-124TH INF, FL ARNG
SSG	ROBBINS, WILLIAM T.	20050211		NORTH LITTLE ROCK	AR	HHC, 39TH INF BDE, AR ARNG
CPL	ROBINSON, JEREMIAH W.	20051006	H	MESA	AZ	860TH MP CO, AZ ARNG
SGT	ROMINES, BRIAN M.	20050606	H	SIMPSON	IL	BTY A, 2-123D FA, IL ARNG

SFC	ROONEY, ROBERT E.	20030925		NASHUA	NH	379TH EN CO, MA ARNG
SGT	ROUSTUM, DAVID L.	20041120	H	WEST SENECA	NY	CO B, 1-108TH INF, NY ARNG
SGT	ROWE, ROGER DALE	20030709	H	BON AQUA	TN	1174TH TRANS CO, TN ARNG
CW3	RUDOLF, BRADY JOE	20080917		OKLAHOMA CITY	OK	CO B, 2-149TH AVN, OK ARNG
SGT	RUHREN, DAVID A.	20041221	H	DALE CITY	VA	CO C, 276TH EN BN, VA ARNG
SPC	RYMER, LYLE W. II	20050128	H	FT SMITH	AR	239TH EN CO, AR ARNG
SGT	RYSTAD, COREY J.	20061202	H	RED LAKE FALLS	MN	CO B, 2-136TH INF, MN ARNG
SFC	SALCIDO, RUDY A.	20061109	H	ONTARIO	CA	1114TH TRANS CO, CA ARNG
SGT	SAYLOR, PAUL A.	20050815		NORCROSS	GA	HHC, 1-108TH AR, GA ARNG
SFC	SCHEILE, DANIEL R.	20050924	H	ANTIOCH	CA	CO D, 1-184TH INF, CA ARNG
SFC	SCHILD, RICHARD L.	20051204	H	TABOR	SD	BTY C, 1-147TH FA, SD ARNG
PFC	SCHMIDT, RONALD A.	20080803		NEWTON	KS	BTY C, 1-161ST FA, KS ARNG
SGT	SCHMUECKER, JACOB S.	20070721	H	ATKINSON	NE	755TH CHEM CO, NE ARNG
SPC	SCHMUNK, JEREMIAH W.	20040709	H	RICHLAND	WA	CO C, 1-161ST INF, WA ARNG
PFC	SCHUSTER, BENJAMIN C.	20060225	H	WILLIAMSVILLE	NY	JFHQ, NY ARNG
SPC	SELLEN, DENNIS L. JR	20070211		NEW HALL	CA	HHC, 1-185TH INF, CA ARNG
SGT	SEMBLY, BERNARD L. II	20050519	H	BOSSIER CITY	LA	CO C, 1-156TH AR, LA ARNG
SGT	SESKER, DANIEL L.	20060406	H	OGDEN	IA	TRP C, 1-113TH CAV, IA ARNG
SGT	SHAVER, JEFFREY R.	20040512	H	MAPLE VALLEY	WA	HHC, 1-161ST INF, WA ARNG
SSG	SHEEHAN, KEVIN F.	20040525	H	MILTON	VT	HHB 1-86 FA, VT ARNG
SGT	SHELLEY, RONNIE L. SR	20050730	H	VALDOSTA	GA	CO A, 2-121ST INF, GA ARNG
SGT	SHERRILL, JAMES A.	20050403	H	EKRON	KY	2113TH TRANS CO, KY ARNG
1LT	SHIELDS, ANDREW C.	20041209		CAMPOBELLO	SC	CO A, 1-151ST AVN, SC ARNG
SPC	SHILLING, BRADLEY N.	20061118	H	REED CITY	MI	CO E, 1-125TH INF, MI ARNG
SPC	SIETSEMA, ASHLEY	20071112		MELROSE PARK	IL	708TH MED CO, IL ARNG
SSG	SILER, ALFRED B.	20050525		DUFF	TN	HHT, SPT SQDN-278TH ACR, TN ARNG
SSG	SILVA, ALFREDO B.	20050915	H	CALEXICO	CA	HHB, 1-487TH FA, CA ARNG
SGT	SINCLAIR, ISIAH J.	20050326	H	NATCHITOCHES	LA	HHC, 1-156TH AR, LA ARNG
SPC	SINGLETARY, CHANNING G.	20060623		SYLVESTER	GA	122D SPT CENTER, GA ARNG
SPC	SISSEL, AARON J.	20031129	H	TIPTON	IA	2133D TRANS CO, IA ARNG
SSG	SKELTON, BRADLEY J.	20080206	H	GORDONVILLE	MO	1138TH EN CO, MO ARNG
1LT	SLAVENAS, BRIAN D.	20031102	H	CHAMPAIGN	IL	CO F, 106TH AVN, IL ARNG
SGT	SLEBODNIK, ERIC W.	20050928	H	GREENFIELD	PA	CO B, 1-109TH INF, PA ARNG
SGT	SMALLWOOD, ERICH S.	20070526	H	TRUMANN	AR	CO A, 875TH EN BN, AR ARNG
SGT	SMETTE, KEITH L.	20040124	H	FARGO	ND	957TH EN CO, ND ARNG
CW4	SMITH, BRUCE A.	20031102	H	WEST LIBERTY	IA	CO F, 1-106TH AVN, IA ARNG
CPL	SMITH, DARRELL L.	20031123		OTWELL	IN	CO D, 1-152D INF, IN ARNG
SGT	SMITH, MICHAEL A.	20041126	H	CAMDEN	AR	CO B, 1-153D INF, AR ARNG
LTCOL	SONNENBERG, KEVIN H.	20070615		MCCLURE	OH	112TH FIGHTER SQDN, OH ANG
SGT	SONODA, MIKE T. JR	20050922	H	FALLBROOK	CA	CO D, 1-184TH INF, CA ARNG
SGT	SOPER, MATTHEW R.	20070606	H	JACKSON	MI	1461ST TRANS CO, MI ARNG
SGT	SOURIVONG, KAMPHA B.	20060930	H	IOWA CITY	IA	CO C, 1-133D INF, IA ARNG
SFC	SPATOL, THEODORE A.	20061214		THERMOPOLIS	WY	1041ST EN CO, WY ARNG
SFC	SPILLERS, WILLIAM C.	20070217		JACKSON	MS	230TH FINANCE DET, MS ARNG
SGT	STELMAT, DAVID S. JR	20080322	H	LITTLETON	NH	237TH MP CO, NH ARNG
SGT	STOKELY, MICHAEL J.	20050816	H	SHARPSBURG	GA	TRP E, 108TH CAV, GA ARNG
MAJ	STONE, GREGORY L.	20030325		BOISE	ID	124TH AIR SPT OPS SQDN, ID ANG
SPC	STONE, SAMUEL D.	20090531		PORT ORCHARD	WA	TRP C, 1-303D CAV, WA ARNG
SPC	STOUT, BRANDON L.	20070122	H	GRAND RAPIDS	MI	46TH MP CO, MI ARNG
1LT	STOVALL, MATTHEW R.	20040822	H	HORN LAKE	MS	367TH MAINT CO, MS ARNG
SGT	STRAUB, FRANCIS J. JR	20050809	H	PHILADELPHIA	PA	CO A, 1-111TH INF, PA ARNG
SGT	STRAUGHTER, MATTHEW F.	20080131	H	SAINT CHARLES	MO	1138TH EN CO, MO ARNG
SGT	STRICKLAND, THOMAS J.	20050815		DOUGLASVILLE	GA	HHC, 1-108TH AR, GA ARNG
SSG	SUTTER, MICHAEL J.	20031226	H	TINLEY PARK	IL	745TH EOD, MI ARNG
SSG	SWEENEY, ROBERT W. III	20050110	H	PINEVILLE	LA	HHC, 3-156TH INF, LA ARNG
SGT	TALBERT, DEFOREST L.	20040727	H	CHARLESTON	WV	CO C, 1-150TH AR, WV ARNG
MSG	TARANGO-GRIESS, LINDA A.	20040711	H	SUTTON	NE	267TH ORD CO, NE ARNG
SPC	TAYLOR, CHRISTOPHER M.	20040216	H	DAPHNE	AL	1165TH MP CO, AL ARNG
CPT	TAYLOR, MICHAEL V.	20070120	H	NORTH LITTLE ROCK	AR	CO B, 1-185TH AVN, AR ARNG
SGT	TAYLOR, SHANNON D.	20050814	H	SMITHVILLE	TN	HWB, 3-278TH ACR, TN ARNG
MSG	THIGPEN, THOMAS R. SR	20040316		AUGUSTA	GA	HHC, 151ST SIG BN, SC ARNG
SGT	THOMAS, JOHN F.	20050724	H	VALDOSTA	GA	CO A, 2-121ST INF, GA ARNG
MSG	THOMAS, SEAN M.	20070327	H	HARRISBURG	PA	HHC, 28TH DISCOM, PA ARNG

SGT	THOMASON, PAUL W. III	20050320	H	TALBOTT	TN	TRP G, 2-278TH ACR, TN ARNG
CPL	THOMPSON, MICHAEL E.	20080917		HARRAH	OK	CO B, 2-149TH AVN, OK ARNG
1LT	TIMMERMAN, JASON G.	20050221	H	TRACY	MN	BTY C, 1-151ST FA, MN ARNG
SSG	TIMOTEO, HUMBERTO F.	20040605	H	NEWARK	NJ	BTY B, 3-112TH FA, NJ ARNG
SPC	TOTH, ERIC L.	20050330	H	EDMONTON	KY	BTY A, 1-623D FA, KY ARNG
SFC	TOWNS, ROBIN L. SR	20071024	H	PORTSMOUTH	VA	275TH MP CO, VA ARNG
SGT	TRAHAN, SETH R.	20050219	H	CROWLEY	LA	CO C, 3-156TH INF, LA ARNG
SGT	TRAN, QUOC BINH	20041107	H	MISSION VIEJO	CA	CO B, 181ST SPT BN, CA ARNG
SSG	TRAVIS, PHILIP L.	20051202		SNELLVILLE	GA	HHC, 148TH SPT BN, GA ARNG
CW4	TROXEL, CHESTER W.	20060107		ANCHORAGE	AK	CO B, 1-207TH AVN, AK ARNG
SGT	TUCKER, ROBERT W.	20051013	H	HILHAM	TN	TRP K, 3-278TH ACR, TN ARNG
SGT	TULL, GREGORY L.	20051125	H	POCAHONTAS	IA	HHB, 2-194TH FA, IA ARNG
SGT	TURCOTTE, NICHOLAS D.	20061204		MAPLE GROVE	MN	CO A, 2-135TH INF, MN ARNG
1LT	TYSON, ANDRE D.	20040622	H	RIVERSIDE	CA	CO B, 578TH EN BN, CA ARNG
SPC	UNGER, DANIEL P.	20040525	H	EXETER	CA	CO A, 1-185TH AR, CA ARNG
SPC	URBINA, WILFREDO F.	20041129	H	BALDWIN	NY	HHC, 1-69TH INF, NY ARNG
SGT	UVANNI, MICHAEL A.	20041001	H	ROME	NY	CO B, 2-108TH INF, NY ARNG
1LT	VALLEJO, ROBERT II	20080917		RICHLAND HILLS	TX	CO B, 2-149TH AVN, TX ARNG
SGT	VARNADO, DANIEL R.	20050523	H	SAUCIER	MS	CO C, 1-155TH INF, MS ARNG
1LT	VEGA, MICHAEL W.	20040320		LATHROP	CA	CO C, 223D MI BN, CA ARNG
SSG	VEVERKA, DAVID M.	20060506	H	ORONO	ME	CO B, 3-172D INF, ME ARNG
SGT	VINNEDGE, ANTHONY M. K.	20070705		OKEANA	OH	TRP C, 2-107TH CAV, OH ARNG
SGT	VOLLMER, CHAD J.	20061223	H	GRAND RAPIDS	MI	CO E, 1-125TH INF, MI ARNG
SGT	VONRONN, KENNETH G. G.	20050106	H	BLOOMINGBURG	NY	HHC, 1-69TH INF, NY ARNG
SSG	VOSS, MICHAEL S.	20041008	H	ENOSBURG	VT	HHC, 1-120TH INF, NC ARNG
SSG	WAGNER, GREGORY A.	20060508	H	MITCHELL	SD	BTY C, 1-147TH FA, SD ARNG
SGT	WALLACE, ANDREW P.	20050926	H	OSHKOSH	WI	CO C, 2-127TH INF, WI ARNG
SPC	WALTER, CWISLYN K.	20090219		HONOLULU	HI	HHC, SPEC TRPS BN, 29th BCT, HI ARNG
SFC	WARREN, CHARLES H.	20050803	H	DULUTH	GA	CO C, 648TH EN BN, GA ARNG
SFC	WARREN, MARK C.	20050131		LA GRANDE	OR	HHT, 3-116TH ACR, OR ARNG
SGM	WARREN, WILLIAM T.	20070120	H	NORTH LITTLE ROCK	AR	CO B, 1-185TH AVN, AR ARNG
CPL	WATKINS, GLENN J.	20050405	H	CARLSBAD	CA	CO B, 1-161ST INF, WA ARNG
SGT	WEBBER, MATTHEW A.	20060427	H	KALAMAZOO	MI	CO B, 1-125TH INF, MI ARNG
SFC	WEHRLY, KYLE B.	20051103	H	GALESBURG	IL	BTY B, 2-123D FA, IL ARNG
SSG	WEISENBURG, DAVID J.	20040913	H	PORTLAND	OR	CO B, 2-162D INF, OR ARNG
SPC	WENDLING, MICHAEL J.	20050926	H	MAYVILLE	WI	CO C, 2-127TH INF, WI ARNG
SPC	WENTZ, CODY L.	20041104	H	WILLISTON	ND	CO A, 141ST EN BN, ND ARNG
SPC	WERSHOW, JEFFREY M.	20030706	H	GAINESVILLE	FL	CO C, 2-124TH INF, FL ARNG
SPC	WERTISH, JAMES D.	20090716	H	OLIVIA	MN	34TH MP CO, MN ARNG
SGT	WESTBROOK, MARSHALL A.	20051001	H	FARMINGTON	NM	126TH MP CO, NM ARNG
SSG	WHITE, DELMAR	20070902	H	LEXINGTON	KY	BTY B, 2-138TH FA, KY ARNG
SPC	WIEGAND, LEE ALLEN	20050928	H	HALLSTEAD	PA	CO B, 1-109TH INF, PA ARNG
SPC	WILCOX, CARLOS E. IV	20090716	H	COTTAGE GROVE	MN	34TH MP CO, MN ARNG
1LT	WILKINS, CHARLES L. III	20040820	H	COLUMBUS	OH	CO A, 216TH EN BN, OH ARNG
SGT	WILLIAMS, DAVID B.	20080322	H	TARBORO	NC	1132D MP CO, NC ARNG
SPC	WILLIAMS, MICHAEL L.	20031017	H	BUFFALO	NY	105TH MP CO, NY ARNG
SFC	WILLOUGHBY, CHRISTOPHER R.	20030720		PHENIX CITY	AL	CO H (LRS), 121ST INF, GA ARNG
SFC	WISDOM, CLINTON LEE	20041108	H	ATCHISON	KS	BTY B, 2-130TH FA, KS ARNG
SPC	WISE, ROBERT ALLEN	20031112	H	TALLAHASSEE	FL	CO A, 3-124TH INF, FL ARNG
SPC	WITMER, MICHELLE M.	20040410	H	NEW BERLIN	WI	32D MP CO, WI ARNG
SGT	WONG, ELIJAH TAI WAH	20040209		MESA	AZ	363D ORD CO, AZ ARNG
SPC	WOOD, JOHN EDWARD	20061007	H	HUMBOLDT	KS	HHC, 110TH EN BN, MO ARNG
SFC	WOOD, RONALD T.	20050716	H	CEDAR CITY	UT	BTY B, 1-148TH FA, UT ARNG
SFC	WOODHAM, ANTHONY L.	20080705		ROGERS	AR	HHT, 1-151ST CAV, AR ARNG
SSG	WOSIKA, JAMES M. JR	20070109	H	SAINT PAUL	MN	CO B, 2-136TH INF, MN ARNG
SPC	WRIGHT, BRIAN A.	20051206	H	KEENSBURG	IL	135TH EN CO, IL ARNG
SGT	WRIGHT, THOMAS G.	20070514		HOLLY	MI	46TH MP CO, MI ARNG
SGT	YOUMANS, JOSHUA V.	20060301	H	FLUSHING	MI	CO B, 1-125TH INF, MI ARNG
SPC	YOUNG, CHRISTOPHER D.	20070302	H	LOS ANGELES	CA	CO C, 3-160TH INF, CA ARNG

NATIONAL GUARD
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OPERATION IRAQI FREEDOM

CHRONOLOGY

Jan. 29, 2002
In his State of the Union address, President George W. Bush identifies Iraq, Iran and North Korea as an "axis of evil." He vows that the United States "will not permit the world's most dangerous regimes to threaten us with the world's most destructive weapons."

May 14, 2002
The U.N. Security Council revamps sanctions against Iraq, now eleven years old, replacing them with "smart sanctions" meant to allow more civilian goods to enter the country while at the same time more effectively restricting military and dual-use equipment (military and civilian).

Jun. 2, 2002
President Bush publicly introduces the new strategic doctrine of preemption in a speech at the U.S. Military Academy at West Point, New York. In some instances, the president asserts, the United States must strike first to prevent a serious potential threat from growing into a direct menace.

Sep. 12, 2002
President Bush addresses the U.N., challenging the organization to swiftly enforce its own resolutions against Iraq. If not, the president contends, the United States will have no choice but to act on its own against Iraq.

Oct. 11, 2002
Congress authorizes an attack on Iraq.

Nov. 8, 2002
The U.N. Security Council unanimously approves Resolution 1441, imposing tough new arms inspections on Iraq and precise, unambiguous definitions of what constitutes a "material breach" of the resolution. Should Iraq violate the resolution, it will face "serious consequences."

Dec. 7, 2002
Iraq submits a 12,000-page declaration of its chemical, biological and nuclear activities, claiming it has no banned weapons.

Dec. 21, 2002
President Bush approves the deployment of U.S. troops to the Persian Gulf region. By March an estimated 200,000 troops are stationed there. British and Australian forces join them over the coming months.

Jan. 28, 2003
In his State of the Union address, President Bush announces that the United States is ready to attack Iraq even without a U.N. mandate.

Feb. 24, 2003
The United States, Britain and Spain submit a proposed resolution to the U.N. Security Council that states that "Iraq has failed to take the final opportunity afforded to it in Resolution 1441," and that it is time to authorize use of military force.

Mar. 17, 2003
President Bush delivers a televised ultimatum to Saddam Hussein and his sons ordering them to leave Iraq within forty-eight hours.

Mar. 20, 2003
The Iraq War begins 5:30 a.m. Baghdad time (9:30 p.m. EST, March 19), when the United States launches Operation Iraqi Freedom. Called a "decapitation attack," the initial air strike of the war attempts to target Saddam Hussein and other Iraqi leaders in Baghdad. The United States launches a second round of air strikes against Baghdad, and ground troops cross into southern Iraq from Kuwait.

Mar. 21, 2003
The major phase of the war begins with heavy aerial attacks on Baghdad and other cities. Meanwhile, the U.S. V Corps and the I MEF attack northward from Kuwait toward Baghdad while British troops head for Basra.

Mar. 24, 2003
Coalition ground forces reach within sixty miles of Baghdad. They encounter strong resistance from Iraqi soldiers and paramilitary fighters along the way, particularly in towns such as Nassiriya and Basra.

Mar. 26, 2003
About 1,000 U.S. paratroopers drop into Kurdish-controlled Iraq to open a northern front.

Mar. 30, 2003
U.S. Marines and Army troops launch their first attack on Iraq's Republican Guard, about sixty-five miles outside Baghdad.

Apr. 5, 2003
U.S. tanks roll into the Iraqi capital and engage in firefights with Iraqi troops.

Apr. 9, 2003
U.S. forces move into Baghdad, but sporadic fighting continues throughout the capital.

Apr. 14, 2003
Major fighting in Iraq is declared over by the Pentagon, after U.S. forces take control of Tikrit, Saddam Hussein's birthplace and the last city to exhibit strong Iraqi resistance. Saddam Hussein's whereabouts remain unknown.

May 1, 2003
President Bush declares "Mission Accomplished" and an end to major combat operations.

May 12, 2003
A new civil administrator takes over in Iraq. L. Paul Bremer, a diplomat and former head of the counter-terrorism department at the State Department, replaces Jay Garner, who is seen as ineffective in stemming the continued lawlessness and violence taking place throughout Iraq.

May 23, 2003
The head of the Coalition Provisional Authority (CPA), L. Paul Bremer, disbands the 400,000-member Iraqi armed forces.

Jun. 15, 2003
Operation Desert Scorpion commences, a military campaign meant to defeat organized Iraqi resistance against Americans. U.S. and British troops face continued attacks; about one American soldier is killed each day since the end of combat was declared.

Jul. 16, 2003
General John Abizaid, the new CENTCOM commander who replaced the retiring General Tommy Franks on July 7, calls continued attacks on coalition troops a "guerrilla-type campaign" and says soldiers who will replace current troops may be deployed for yearlong tours.

Jul. 22, 2003
Coalition forces kill Saddam Hussein's sons, Uday and Qusay, during a firefight in the northern Iraqi city of Mosul. An informant leads U.S. forces to the two brothers in a three-story house in the northeastern part of Mosul.

Aug. 19, 2003
A suicide bomber destroys the U.N. headquarters in Baghdad, killing twenty-four, including top envoy Sergio Vieira de Mello, and wounding more than one hundred.

Oct. 2, 2003
According to an interim report by Dr. David Kay, the lead investigator searching for WMD in Iraq, none have yet been found.

Nov. 2, 2003
In the single deadliest strike since the Iraq War began, guerrillas shoot down an American helicopter, killing sixteen U.S. soldiers and injuring twenty-one others. Other attacks over the course of the month make it the bloodiest since the war began: at least seventy-five U.S. soldiers are killed.

Nov. 14, 2003
The Bush administration reverses policy and in a deal with the Iraqi Governing Council, agrees to transfer power to an interim government in early 2004.

Dec. 13, 2003
Saddam Hussein is captured on December 13, 2003, in a raid near his hometown of Tikrit after evading coalition forces for months. He is found hiding in a narrow, deep hole near a farmhouse, and troops take him into custody without firing a shot.

Jan. 17, 2004
The number of U.S. soldiers killed in Iraq since the start of the war reaches 500. Of those, 346 soldiers died in combat and 154 died from accidents.

Jan. 19, 2004
The United States asks the U.N. to intercede in a dispute over the election process in Iraq. Shiite leader Ayatollah al-Sistani, at the center of the debate, has refused to meet with American officials. The U.N. weighs sending election experts to determine whether there is enough time to prepare for direct elections. About 100,000 Shiites march in Baghdad and other cities in support of Ayatollah al-Sistani's demand for direct elections, the largest protest since the occupation began.

Mar. 2, 2004
Suicide attacks in Karbala on Shiite Islam's most holy feast day kill more than 85 and wound 233 others. It is believed that the perpetrators are attempting to foment unrest between Shiites and Sunnis.

Mar. 8, 2004
The Iraqi Governing Council signs an interim constitution, which includes a bill of rights, a system of checks and balances, and a military subordinate to civilian rule. The signing is delayed by several days when Shiites object that Kurds, a minority, are given too much power in the interim constitution.

Mar. 28, 2004
Coalition forces close Muqtada al-Sadr's rabidly anti-American newspaper, *Al Hawza*.

Mar. 31, 2004
An Iraqi mob kills and mutilates four American civilian contract workers, drags their bodies through the streets of Falluja, and then hangs them from the support beam of a major road bridge.

Apr. 4, 2004
U.S. troops begin an assault on Falluja in response to the March 31 atrocity. The Mahdi Army launches coordinated attacks in the southern Iraqi cities of Kufa, Karbala, Najaf, Kut and Sadr City.

Apr. 11, 2004
United States orders a cease-fire in Falluja to give political discussions a chance to break the cycle of violence. Two members of the Iraqi Governing Council resign in protest of the American offensive in Falluja.

Apr. 15, 2004
The Bush administration agrees to a U.N. proposal to replace the Iraqi Governing Council with a caretaker government when the United States returns sovereignty to Iraqis on June 30.

Apr. 22, 2004
In a shift of policy, United States announces that some Iraqi Baath Party officials who had been forced out of their jobs after the fall of Saddam Hussein will be allowed to resume their positions.

Apr. 30, 2004
The appalling physical and sexual abuse and humiliation of Iraqi prisoners at Abu Ghraib prison near Baghdad comes to light when photographs are released by the U.S. media. The images spark outrage around the world, especially in the Middle East.

May 8, 2004
Nicholas Berg, an American contractor, is beheaded by Iraqi militants who claim the grisly murder is in retaliation for the treatment of Iraqi prisoners.

May 17, 2004
A suicide bomber kills the head of the Iraqi Governing Council, Izzedin Salim, and six other people.

May 27, 2004
After seven weeks of fighting in Najaf, U.S. forces and the militias loyal to Muqtada al-Sadr reach a truce.

May 28, 2004
Iyad Allawi is designated prime minister of the Iraqi interim government.

Jun. 8, 2004
The U.N. Security Council unanimously passes a resolution endorsing the appointment of an interim government in Iraq. It authorizes U.S. forces to remain in the country until Jan. 2006.

Jul. 1, 2004
Saddam Hussein appears in court—his first appearance since being captured—and pleads innocent to numerous crimes, including the invasion of Kuwait.

Jul. 7, 2004
Prime Minister Allawi signs a law permitting the imposition of martial law.

Aug. 27, 2004
A bloody, three-week battle in Najaf between U.S. forces and the Mahdi Army ends when Shiite cleric Grand Ayatollah Ali al-Sistani negotiates a settlement.

Sep. 7, 2004
The American death toll in Iraq reaches 1,000; about 7,000 soldiers have been wounded. In August, attacks on American forces reach their highest level since the beginning of the war, an average of eighty-seven per day.

Oct. 1–3, 2004
U.S and Iraqi troops take control of Samarra, which has become a stronghold of the insurgency.

Oct. 11, 2004
The Mahdi Army begins to surrender heavy weapons. Results are deemed a "mixed success."

Nov. 8, 2004
U.S. forces initiate an all-out assault on Falluja, which has been under the control of insurgents since May. Named Operation Phantom Fury, the offensive involves about 10,000 American Marines and soldiers. A month later, U.S. commanders estimate they have killed about 1,600 insurgents while uncovering enormous caches of weapons. The city has been severely damaged by artillery, air and tank bombardments, and most of its 300,000 residents have not returned.

Dec. 21, 2004
A terrorist bomb explodes in a military tent at a U.S. base in Mosul. At least twenty-four people die, including nineteen Americans.

Jan. 7, 2005
Lt. Gen. Thomas Metz, commander of U.S. ground forces in Iraq, acknowledges that large parts of nearly 25 percent of Iraq's provinces are not secure enough to hold elections. Baghdad is one of the four provinces cited. Violence continues on a daily basis throughout much of the country.

Jan. 11, 2005
Iraqi Prime Minister Allawi admits that some areas of Iraq are likely too dangerous to hold elections.

Jan. 12, 2005
The White House announces that the search for WMD in Iraq is over. No such weapons are ever found.

Jan. 27, 2005
In a helicopter crash, thirty-one Marines die, and five other U.S. soldiers are killed by Iraqi insurgents elsewhere in the country, making it the single deadliest day for American soldiers since the war began. The death toll for U.S. soldiers reaches 1,408.

Jan. 30, 2005
Elections to select a 275-seat Iraqi National Assembly proceed as scheduled. A total of 8.5 million people vote, representing about 60 percent of those Iraqis eligible to vote. Violence accompanies the voting, with 260 attacks taking place on election day. A coalition of Shiites, the United Iraq Alliance, receive 48 percent of the vote, the Kurdish parties receive 26 percent of the vote, and the Sunnis just 2 percent. The Sunni vote is so low because most Sunni leaders have called for a boycott.

Feb. 22, 2005
The United Iraqi Alliance, the group of Shiite political parties that won the most votes in Iraq's January 30 election, selects Ibrahim al-Jaafari to be the prime minister of Iraq. Jaafari is a popular politician seen as acceptable to the Sunnis and Kurds as well as the dominant Shiites.

Feb. 28, 2005
In the deadliest attack ever by insurgents, a suicide bomber blows up a car in Hilla, killing about 115 people who are seeking employment with the Iraqi police.

Mar. 5, 2005
U.S. soldiers shoot at a car carrying Giuliana Sgrena, an Italian journalist who had been held hostage by Iraqi insurgents and just released from captivity. Sgrena is wounded and an Italian intelligence agent is killed. Relations between Italy and the United States grow strained.

Mar. 16, 2005
A diverse group of 275 newly elected leaders to the Iraqi National Assembly convene for the first time in a largely ceremonial meeting. On March 29, the assembly meets for the second time and fails again to agree upon the composition of the new Iraqi government.

Apr. 3–7, 2005
On April 3, the Iraqi National Assembly names Hajim al-Hassani, a Sunni, as speaker, and Hussain al-Shahristani, a Shiite, and Arif Taifour, a Kurd, as deputies. On April 6, the Assembly selects Kurdish leader Jalal Talabani as president; Adel Abdul Mahdi, a Shiite politician, as vice president, and Sheik Ghazi al-Yawar, the Sunni president of the interim government, as the second vice president. On April 7, the Assembly names Shiite Ibrahim al-Jaafari as prime minister.

Jun. 23, 2005
General John Abizaid states that the Iraq insurgency remains as strong as it was six months earlier.

Jul. 20, 2005
A Pentagon report assessing Iraqi security forces finds that they are, at best, "partially capable" of fighting the country's insurgency.

Aug. 22, 2005
Iraqi leaders give the Iraqi National Assembly a partially complete constitution and promise to finish the document within days.

Aug. 28, 2005
The Iraqi National Assembly receives the new constitution, which will be voted on by Iraqi citizens on Oct. 15. Sunni negotiators denounce the document.

Sep. 10–11, 2005
U.S. and Iraqi troops launch a successful offensive against insurgents in the northern city of Tal Afar.

Oct. 15, 2005
Millions of Iraqi voters vote on a constitution.

Oct. 19, 2005
Saddam Hussein goes on trial. Among the key charges is the 1982 massacre of 148 people in Dujail, Iraq.

Oct. 25, 2005
The number of deaths of U.S. soldiers fighting in Iraq reaches 2,000.

Nov. 2, 2005
The Iraqi Defense Ministry begins recruiting former junior officers from Saddam Hussein's army to bolster the country's forces and to siphon fighters away from the insurgency.

Dec. 15, 2005
Iraq holds parliamentary elections. As many as 11 million Iraqis turn out to select their first permanent parliament since the overthrow of Saddam Hussein. More than 7,000 candidates from 300 parties seek to fill the 275 seats in parliament. Violence is minimal.

Jan. 20, 2006
Preliminary election results are reported from the Dec. 15 elections. The Shiite United Iraqi Alliance—an alliance of Shiite religious parties—captures 128 of the 275 parliamentary seats. It does not succeed in winning the two-thirds majority needed to rule without coalition partners and seeks to form a coalition over the next weeks.

Feb. 22, 2006
Insurgents bomb and seriously damage the golden dome atop the Shiite's most revered shrine in Iraq, the Askariyya Shrine in Samarra. The bombings ignite ferocious sectarian attacks between Shiites and Sunnis. More than a thousand people are killed over several days, and Iraq seems poised for civil war.

Mar. 16, 2006
The U.S. military and Iraqi forces launch Operation Swarmer near Samarra, a massive attack against insurgents. It is the largest air assault since the beginning of the war. Iraq's new parliament meets for the first time since its election in December 2005.

Apr. 4, 2006
An Iraqi court charges Saddam Hussein and six other defendants with genocide in attempting to eradicate Iraq's Kurdish population in 1988. More than 50,000 people were killed in the military campaign that destroyed about 2,000 villages.

Apr. 22, 2006
Nuri al-Maliki of the Shiite Dawa Party is approved as prime minister, ending four months of political stalemate.

May 15, 2006
Saddam Hussein is charged with crimes against humanity.

Jun. 7, 2006
Abu Musab al-Zarqawi, the leader of al Qaeda in Iraq and the most-wanted terrorist in the country, is killed by a U.S. airstrike on his safe house. Zarqawi was responsible for many of the most brutal and horrific attacks in Iraq, and his death is considered a major victory.

Jul. 25, 2006
The United States announces it will move more troops into Baghdad from other regions of Iraq, in an attempt to bring security to the country's capital, which has increasingly been subject to lawlessness, violence and sectarian strife.

Jul. 27, 2006
The trial of Saddam Hussein ends after nine months.

Aug. 3, 2006
General John Abizaid tells a Senate panel that sectarian violence in Iraq has grown so strong that civil war is a distinct possibility.

Aug. 30, 2006
General George Casey, the top coalition commander in Iraq, estimates that Iraqi security forces will need another 12 to 18 months before they can take over from American troops.

Oct. 19, 2006
The U.S. military acknowledges that its 12-week-old campaign to establish security in Baghdad, which has been wracked by sectarian death squads and insurgents, has been unsuccessful. The military deploys 15,600 troops, 9,600 Iraqi Army soldiers, and 30,000 Iraqi policemen to assist.

Nov. 5, 2006
Saddam Hussein is sentenced to death by hanging.

Nov. 7, 2006
In U.S. elections, the House and Senate shift to Democratic control.

Nov. 8, 2006
President Bush announces that Secretary of Defense Donald H. Rumsfeld will resign. The president nominates Robert M. Gates for the position.

Nov. 22, 2006
Civilian deaths reach a record high in Iraq. Some 3,700 Iraqi civilians die in October, the highest toll since the war began in 2003.

Dec. 6, 2006
A bipartisan report by the Iraq Study Group is released. It concludes that the situation in Iraq is "grave and deteriorating" and that U.S. forces seem caught in a mission that "has no foreseeable end." The report's seventy-nine recommendations include reaching out to Iran and Syria through diplomacy and having the U.S. military intensify its efforts to train Iraqi troops.

Dec. 30, 2006
Saddam Hussein is executed by hanging.

Dec. 31, 2006
The American death toll in the Iraq War reaches 3,000.

GLOSSARY

AEW	Air Expeditionary Wing
ANG	Air National Guard
ARNG	Army National Guard
BCT	Brigade Combat Team
BIAP	Baghdad International Airport
CENTCOM	U.S. Central Command
CJTF	Combined Joint Task Force
CONUS	Continental United States
CPA	Coalition Provisional Authority
DOD	Department of Defense
DVIC	Defense Visual Information Center
EMEDS	Expeditionary Medical Support
FOB	Forward Operating Base
FSG	Family Support Group
HHC	Headquarters and Headquarters Company
HMMWV	High Mobility Multipurpose Wheeled Vehicle
IED	Improvised Explosive Device
JRTC	Joint Readiness Training Center
JTF	Joint Task Force
LSA	Logistical Support Area
MEF	Marine Expeditionary Force
MHD	Military History Detachment
MNC-I	Multi-National Corps-Iraq
MND-B	Multi-National Division-Baghdad
MND-CS	Multi-National Division-Central South
MND-N	Multi-National Division-North
MND-NC	Multi-National Division-North Central
MND-SE	Multi-National Division-Southeast
MND-W	Multi-National Division-West
MNF-I	Multi-National Force-Iraq
MP	Military Police
NCO	Noncommissioned Officer
NGAUS	National Guard Association of the United States
NGB	National Guard Bureau
NVG	Night Vision Goggles
OEF	Operation Enduring Freedom
OIF	Operation Iraqi Freedom
PTSD	Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder
PW	Prisoner of War
QRF	Quick Reaction Force
RCT	Regimental Combat Team
ROE	Rules of Engagement
RPG	Rocket Propelled Grenade
SAW	Squad Automatic Weapon
SF	Special Forces
TAG	The Adjutant General
TC	Transportation Company
TF	Task Force
UAV	Unmanned Aerial Vehicle
U.N.	United Nations
USAR	U.S. Army Reserve
WMD	Weapons of Mass Destruction

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Col. Michael D. Doubler (Ret.) served twenty-three years on active duty as a Regular Army and full-time Army National Guard officer. He is a graduate of the U.S. Military Academy at West Point, New York, and holds a doctorate degree in military history from The Ohio State University. In his early military assignments, he served in command and staff positions in armor and infantry units in the United States and in Europe. From 1985 to 1988, he taught military history as a faculty member of the Department of History at West Point. He was assigned to the Army National Guard Directorate in Washington, D.C. from 1988 to 2000, serving in the force structure, mobilization, and readiness functional areas and as a speechwriter for the Chief, National Guard Bureau. His service as a full-time Army National Guard officer began in 1991 and was completed with his retirement in 2000.

Mike Doubler previously authored Closing With the Enemy: How GIs Fought the War in Europe, 1944-1945, which has been added to the Chief of Staff of the Army's professional reading list. He is also the author of Civilian in Peace, Soldier in War: The Army National Guard, 1636-2000, which has been hailed as the definitive history of the Army Guard. His latest book, The National Guard: An Illustrated History of America's Citizen Soldiers, was published by Potomac Books, Inc. He has also written many other articles and special studies on national security matters. At present, he is researching and writing an official history of the National Guard's involvement to date in the war on terror, including National Guard Transformation and the wars in Afghanistan and Iraq. Colonel Doubler has appeared on several national news venues and is a frequent commentator on The History Channel. He is a member of the Board of Directors of the National Guard Education Foundation. He currently resides in Alexandria, Virginia.

Members of the 278th RCT are welcomed home from Iraq as they march in the 46th Annual Dogwood Arts Festival in Knoxville, Tennessee, in April 2006. (TN NG)

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